



Ill Treatment of Children Policy



Regulation 34 of the Education (Early Childhood Centres) Regulations 1998 states that:

1. The licensee of a licensed centre who becomes aware that there are reasonable grounds for believing that a member of the centre's staff, or any other person:
 - (a) Has physically ill treated a child; or
 - (b) In guiding or controlling a child, has subjected the child to solitary confinement, immobilisation, or deprivation of food, drink, warmth, shelter, or protection, must ensure that the person is excluded from coming into contact with the children; and, if satisfied that it is necessary to do so to ensure no child is ill-treated, ensure that the person is excluded from the centre.
2. The Secretary may immediately suspend the centre's licence under regulation 11(1) if satisfied on reasonable grounds that the licensee of a licensed centre:
 - (a) Has physically ill-treated a child; or
 - (b) In guiding or controlling a child, has subjected the child to solitary confinement, immobilisation, or deprivation of food, drink, warmth, shelter, or protection; or
 - (c) Has failed to comply with subclause (1) in relation to the centre.

Rationale

To protect children and promote positive attitudes towards the management of children's behaviour.

Objectives

Children will be treated with respect and dignity and given positive guidance directed towards promoting behaviour appropriate for the child's stage of development.

Procedures

1. Physical or verbal abuse is not acceptable from children or adults.
2. Staff must never smack, hit, grab, shake, handle roughly, bite, punch, tease, insult, humiliate, frighten, ridicule, neglect, shout at, threaten, swear at or confine any child. Staff must not laugh at children's behaviour or discuss it amongst themselves in the presence of children.
3. No child may be put in solitary confinement or deprived of food, drink, warmth, shelter or protection.
4. Even if staff believe in any of the above methods and/or use them outside Hopscotch, they must not do so in the centre. These actions are considered to be "serious misconduct" and any staff seen doing so will face disciplinary action, as stated in their Employment Agreement.