

HECIS: IMPLMMENTING A PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH CHALLENGING BEHAVIOURS

9.e	IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH CHALLENGING BEHAVIOURS
------------	--

Applies to: Staff
Specific responsibility: HECIS Co-Ordinator, and education/Support staff

Version: 1
Date approved: 5.8.14
Next review date: Aug 21

HECIS Staff to refer to 9.18 Managing Challenging Behaviours Policy and the Behaviours Management Program in conjunction with this procedure.

Encouraging positive behaviours in a child who has developed some anti-social and negative behaviours can take some time to change, and so there is a need for all those involved to be prepared to commit themselves to a program that will require consistent effort on all sides.

We acknowledge that behaviour which presents as challenging can be stressful and can produce conflicts between staff and sometimes parents and staff. It is therefore our desire that any program developed by HECIS is done in consultation with parents and staff who agree to the various strategies and have common desired outcomes.

Children and their families need to experience an environment where they know the limits and boundaries of acceptable behaviour.

Children need a sense of power over their own lives; opportunities for fun; a sense of belonging and to feel loved.

Children who experience a lack in any of the above areas will often express their feelings with challenging behaviours in order to regain control and/or power in the relationship.

Behaviours that may require intervention include: tearing books, breaking toys, destroying other's work, pushing, hitting, biting, throwing, grabbing other's toys/food, swearing, shouting, refusal to participate, running away, tantrums, and other similar behaviours.

HECIS aim:

- To ensure the physical safety and emotional well-being of all adults and children at the Centre.
- To address the underlying causes of challenging behaviours.
- To ensure consistent strategies are in place for managing behaviour.
- To ensure children develop strategies and confidence on conflict resolution.
- To build the child's self-esteem and confidence in developing friendships and working co-operatively in group settings.

N.B. When working with children presenting with challenging behaviours who have an intellectual delay the child's disability will be considered an integral part of the program development.

PROCEDURES

1. A referral will be received from the centre or parents which highlights the child's main difficulties in their development.
2. HECIS Staff to complete a Behaviour Management Program for the child which includes a questionnaire to be sent to parents to complete regarding their child's behaviours and their interactions with their child along with a copy of the HECIS Behaviour Management Policy.
3. An initial observation of the child will be undertaken at the Child Care Centre.
4. This will be followed by arrangement of a meeting with parents and staff to develop an individual behaviour management plan.

HECIS: IMPLMMENTING A PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH CHALLENGING BEHAVIOURS

5. Strategies for guiding the child's behaviour will be discussed with the parent and agreement between staff and parents for the implementation of the program will be gained. Client/family to complete a Parental Agreement of Behaviour Management Program form.
6. The program will have both home and centre-based component as required. Areas that will be considered in establishing a program will include:
 - any specific diagnosis of a disorder and its educational/behavioural implications for the child
 - possible causes of the behaviour
 - development of strategies that reflect he individual child's needs
 - physical environment considerations
 - peer relationships and social skills
 - communication skills
 - functional behaviours and general skill development
 - staff training in communicating instructions to children

HECIS staff will discuss with Centre staff the following boundaries for the implementation of the program:
HECIS will expect that:

- Staff will be aware of developmentally appropriate expectations of children's behaviour and model appropriate behaviour themselves.
- Children will be supervised to ensure safety.
- Children will receive positive reinforcement/encouragement for acceptable behaviours.
- Staff will discuss appropriate and inappropriate behaviours with the child as part of the implementation of the program and reinforce group rules to ensure child understands expectations.
- Staff will implement strategies that are pro-active and so reduce possible negative behaviours e.g. planning the environment, catching the child doing the right thing and commenting to them, ensuring the child is involved in activities that are age appropriate and engaging, distracting the child from a possible conflict or re-directing, teaching social skills and communication, presenting requests/instructions in a non-confrontational manner.
- Staff will intervene when unwanted behaviours are observed. If a child/adult is being hurt the action will be stopped immediately- initially through a verbal command, or if required a physical intervention. This verbal command or physical intervention will not be applied in such a way as to cause physical harm to the child, but simply as a "holding" or "restraining" of the child's movement in order to prevent further harm to another child/adult. Similarly if the child is having a tantrum and may be at risk of physical harm
- the child may be physically moved to a safe place or held by the teacher to assist calming, depending on the individual child's reactions.
- Staff will ascertain the possible causes and triggers of the unacceptable behaviours and plan to develop strategies to meet the individual child's needs.
- All unwanted behaviours should be written down and discussed with the HECIS consultant at each review in order to develop appropriate interventions.

DOCUMENTATION

Documents related to this procedure	
Related policies	Managing Challenging Behaviours
Forms, record keeping or other organisational documents	Behaviour Management Program Parental Agreement of Behaviour Management Program form

Reviewing and approving this procedure		
Frequency	Person responsible	Approval
Annually	HECIS Co-Ordinator	Management Committee

HECIS: IMPLMMENTING A PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH CHALLENGING BEHAVIOURS

Procedure review and version tracking			
Review	Date Approved	Approved by	Next Review Due
1	26.8.15	HECIS Co-Ordinator	Aug 2016
2	8.8.16	HECIS CoOrdinator	Aug 2017
3	16.8.17	HECIS CoOrdinator	Aug 2018
4	11.9.18	HECIS CoOrdinator	Aug 2019
5	17.9.19	HECIS CoOrdinator	Aug 2020
6	15.9.20	HECIS CoOrdinator	Aug 2021

INDEXING

Search topic/s:	
Function/s:	