

Behaviour Expectations – Creating Shared Expectations

Summary

What are Shared Behavioral Expectations?

- Expectations are the overarching standards, principles, or values that guide our interactions with others in a shared space. The use of shared expectations is a proactive way of addressing behaviour by focusing on what children are expected to do rather than simply responding to challenging behaviour when it occurs.

What's the Point?

- Supports and nurtures children's sense of safety and security and promotes independence and self-advocacy in children
- Helps all children, including dual language learners, to understand what is expected.
- When children participate in creating shared expectations it honors their citizenship
- Promotes educators to use consistent and positive language when teaching shared expectations

How Do I Do This?

- Have a conversation with your team/children about your room/centre's values and principles.
- Define your room/ centre's values (5 or less) example: We value respect, kindness and teamwork.
- Consider each part of your daily schedule and your values. Describe concrete examples of how those values are demonstrated during each routine or activity e.g. we listen to each other's ideas during small group activities (respect).
- Ensure your expectations are positively stated, what do you want the children to do?
- Involve families to gather information about their values and consider how those values are reflected at the center (consider using family survey).

How will the Children Participate in This Process?

- Children will participate in conversations about the room's values
- Children will share their ideas about expectations (e.g. How do we stay safe outside?)

Checklist

Task	Complete?
Identify the values and vision of the childcare center and how that guides the center's expectations of everyone's behavior.	
Have a conversation with your team /children to reflect on your room's values to ensure you have a shared understanding.	
Consider your daily routines and think about your expectations during each routine and how they link back to your values (consider using the behavior expectations matrix as a guide). Record your thoughts and ideas.	
Have conversations with children about classroom expectations. Record children's thoughts and ideas.	
Develop a short list of clear, simple and positively stated expectations.	
Engage families by asking about their home and cultural values and share your centers' values and expectations and gather feedback (consider using a parent survey).	
Use parent feedback to reflect on and review, and possibly refine your shared expectations	

“Learning requires that educators assure children equitable opportunities and fair procedures and processes, while participating in the making, following, questioning and re- working of rules, rituals, and procedures in their everyday world.”

Makovichuk, Hewes, Lirette & Thomas, 2014, p. 112

Flight: Alberta's early learning and care framework.

Retrieved from www.flightframework.ca

