

# Children's Rights, Responsibilities and Entitlements Policy – 2019/2020



## Mosaic ECD Centre

Date Policy Written: October 2019

Author: Anri Matthee

Date of current revision: Oct 2019

Date of next revision: Oct 2020

Person responsible for implementation: Anri Matthee

### List of Children's Rights that Inform the Practices at Mosaic ECD Centre

- Article 1 – Everyone under the age of 18 has rights.
- Article 2 – All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.
- Article 3 – All adults should do what is best for the children. All the decisions made at Mosaic ECD Centre, the first consideration is the children's well-being.
- Article 5 – A child's family has the responsibility to help them learn to exercise their rights, and to ensure that those rights are protected. To this end Mosaic ECD centre is inclusive and strongly encourages parental involvement.
- Article 6 – Every child has the right to be alive. We have strong Health and Safety and Emergency Preparedness Policies implemented at Mosaic ECD Centre.
- Article 8 – A child has the right to be protected from kidnapping. Safety and security procedures are detailed in our Emergency Preparedness Policy. No child is allowed off the premises without permissions from his/her parents/guardians.
- Article 12 – A child has the right to give an opinion, and for adults to take it seriously. Opinions and thoughts are encouraged in our daily activities and language rings.
- Article 13 – A child has the right to find out things and share what he/she thinks with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends others.
- Article 14 – A child has the right to choose his/her own. Furthermore, a child has the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

- Article 15 – A child has the right to choose their own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it is not harmful to others. Friendships are highly encouraged at Mosaic ECD Centre.
- Article 17 - A child has the right to get information that is important to their well-being. The adults at Mosaic ECD centre constantly share the information they need with the children.
- Article 19 – A child has the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in mind or body. We know our children well at Mosaic ECD centre and keep an eye on their mental and physical health and we communicate with the parents/guardians. We have a zero-tolerance policy at our ECD centre.
- Article 24 – A child has the right to best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help them stay well.
- Article 28 – All children have the right to a good quality education. At Mosaic ECD Centre our practitioners are qualified, and we endeavour to deliver a quality curriculum and excellent care.
- Article 30 – A child has the right to practice their own culture, language and religion. We are fully inclusive at Mosaic ECD centre. It should be noted that our language of tuition is English and Afrikaans.
- Article 31 – A child has the right to play and rest. Our curriculum is play-based and encourages child-led play and adult-guided activities. Rest times are encouraged as per our daily routine. If a child comes to school in the mornings and is consistently tired, we will arrange an appointment with the parent/guardian to try and establish if the child is getting sufficient rest.
- Article 34 – A child has the right to be free from sexual abuse. Every single member of staff at Mosaic ECD centre has provided their fingerprints and been checked through the Crimes Database and Sexual Offenders Register; certificates to this effect have been produced. In addition, we have a strong Anti-Child Abuse and Child Protection Policy implemented, which gives reporting procedures and how to handle any child abuse situation.
- Article 37 – No one is allowed to punish a child in a cruel or harmful way. We take the greatest care possible of 'our children' and harsh, cruel or harmful punishments are never meted out. To do so in our environment is a dismissible offence, and we will not hesitate.
- Article 39 – A child has the right to help if he/she has been hurt, neglected or treated badly. The children are always helped and, if necessary, we will get involved if we suspect that a child is being neglected or badly treated at home.
- Article 42 – Child have the right to know their rights. The adults at Mosaic ECD centre all know the Children's Rights, Responsibilities and Entitlements as shown on the poster at the back of this document. These are the rights and responsibilities we teach to the children.

## Policy Statement

- Mosaic ECD centre promotes children's right to be strong, resilient and listened to by:
  - Creating an environment that encourages our children to develop positive self-images. We are inclusive and encourage exploration of their individual heritages arising from their ethnicity, languages spoken at home, religious beliefs, cultural traditions and home backgrounds.
  - We encourage the children to develop a sense of autonomy and independence.
  - Our curriculum and care enables the children to have the self-confidence and the vocabulary to get help when they are in difficult situations
- Mosaic ECD centre helps children to establish and maintain healthy relationships with their families, peers, caregivers at the Centre, and with other adults.
- We work with parents to build their understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of safeguarding all our children.

## Method

This policy will be implemented and updated by Anri Matthee, Principal of Mosaic ECD Centre

## **Mosaic ECD Centre promotes children's right and entitlement to be '*strong, resilient and listened to*'**

- To be strong:
  - We are involved with 'our' families and promote security in the children's primary relationships, where they are loved and cared for by at least one person who is able to offer consistent, positive and unconditional regard and who can be relied upon.
  - We provide an environment in which the children can feel safe and progress optimally in all their learning and developmental areas.
  - By guiding the children to feel self-assured so that they can form a positive sense of themselves - including all aspects of their identity and heritage.
  - By including all children equally.
  - We praise the children in order to encourage their confidence in their own abilities and to take pride in their achievements.
  - By making group times part of the routines, the children are encouraged to form part of their peer group and learn to negotiate, develop social skills and respect the rights of others.
- To be resilient:
  - By encouraging the children to be sure of their self-worth and dignity.
  - We guide the children to be assertive, but not disrespectful, and to be able to state their needs.
  - We (age appropriately) encourage the children to try and overcome small difficulties by themselves.
  - We provide a controlled, safe, fun environment in which children can feel positive.
  - Sometimes things have to change due to circumstances, and when this happens, we support the children so that they learn to cope with change.
  - We encourage the children to be fair towards each other and to develop a sense of responsibility towards themselves and their peers.
  - Developing a sense of justice towards themselves and others.

- To be listened to:
  - The adults at Mosaic ECD Centre recognise children's needs and the right to express and communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas.
  - Our staff are trained and experienced and they are able to tune into the children's verbal, sign (gestures) and body language in order to interpret what is being communicated and meet the needs.
  - Our staff are all aware of, and respect, children's rights and responsibilities. We actively and enthusiastically advocate for children's rights.

Children's Rights and Responsibilities that Inform Our Policies and Procedures at Mosaic ECD Centre

# My Rights = Your Rights

Learn about child rights.

**I have the right to be protected from abuse and harm; and I should show care for others and not bully other children.**

**I have the right to a clean and safe environment; and I should find ways to keep my own surroundings clean and safe.**

**I have the right to good health care; and I can keep myself healthy by taking care of myself when I am old enough.**

**I have the right to freedom of religion and thought; and I must respect the religions and thoughts of other people.**

**I have the right to be cared for and respected; and I must respect others and show care for them.**

**I have the right to be taken seriously and share my views and ideas. I must also listen to others and respect their views and ideas.**

**I have the right to healthy and enough food; and I should try to eat healthy food and not waste food.**

**I have the right to special care and support when I need it; and should use every chance to be the best person I can be.**

**I have the right to play, have fun, do sport and relax; and I should include everybody in my activities and games.**

**I have the right to try new things and make mistakes; and should learn from my mistakes and not repeat them.**

**I have the right to a good quality education; and I have to learn, do my homework, read and take part in the classroom.**

On this poster you learn about some of your rights. There are many more rights that you have as a child. Visit the following websites to see what the Convention on the Rights of the Child tell you about your rights:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>  
[http://www.unicef.org/southafrica/SAF\\_resources\\_crochildfriendly.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/southafrica/SAF_resources_crochildfriendly.pdf)  
<http://www.un.org/kyberschoolbus/treaties/child.asp>

**unicef** unite for children

**south african human rights commission**

Text: André Vliess and Mal Payne (JHCEP) Illustrations: Sandy Lightby (sandy@twinkl.co.uk) through Spain Media (www.kubans.co.za) Concept on Rights and Responsibilities partly adapted from the National Children's Rights Committee (1997) and UNICEF (2006)