



Our Position Statement on: Our view of the child, family partnership and the need to value diversity and respect differences

This position statement sets out to briefly reflect what we believe about children and the importance of their family in their development and care. It also sets out to reflect what we consider to be our ethos of inclusion and respect for all differences. It might sound like we don't understand the realities of raising children but we really do. This is our pitch at what we would really like for children to experience. We have a part to play in helping that and in helping children's families to contribute to it too. It is not about being the best parent to a child. It is about as being as good as you can in that moment. It is good enough and that is all anyone can ask.

Children are awesome, literally awesome. They are also literally awe-full. As in full of awe, wonder, curiosity and brilliance. They are strong, capable and incredibly intelligent. As adults we don't always have capacity to see this, or recognise this in every moment. Life gets us down. Children can too but it is important that it is remembered that children need care and attention and love more than anything else. They deserve to be listened to, have their basic needs met, to have consistency and be provided with a rich social environment to thrive in. Again, as adults we don't always get to do that, life gets in the way. We have to hold on to that as our aim – to provide children with all they need in a way that helps them to become independent, creative and truly awesome.

It is not to say that children can do no wrong, of course they can and often do. And often they do it at the worst moments. And often it is all too much with everything else that goes on. Whatever our frustrations we should not hold a child to the same standards and expectations of older children or adults – we know how often we miss our own expectations – and these children have only been alive 24 or 36 or 48 or so months!

All we can do is try to remain calm amongst it all, to model what we hope children will see and follow and be patient when they don't. At this stage children communicate to us most effectively and often explosively through their behaviour – their way of telling us how they feel we are doing as adults.

Children's development is influenced by those around them not just a predetermined pathway. Children's family, wider family and friends and community all have a role to play. Children's social environments interact and influence the whole 'tangled mess' of family life. Children are unique, families are unique and our role is to work with all children and all families however unique they are. If we can help you in helping your child, we will.

Everyone involved in Adventure is expected to treat each other, children, families and the wider community with the respect and dignity they deserve. We value differences – it is not about tolerance or acceptance – who are we to judge? For Adventure, it is about valuing the fact that everyone brings something different to the party and that's what makes the party so interesting.

All we request is that everyone else joins us with this commitment while they are involved in Adventure – treat everyone with equal respect – in person, in writing, online and with others. We won't tolerate those who act against this in a way that makes others feel victimised or harassed. That's not okay.