



Killermont Early Years Centre Children's Rights Policy



Rationale

At Killermont Early Years Centre (EYC), we recognise that children have fundamental rights and we are committed to embedding these into every aspect of EYC life. This policy aligns with the Health and Wellbeing Standards for Early Years in Scotland, the Care Inspectorate Quality Framework, and key guidance such as Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Our practice supports children to develop an understanding of their rights through everyday play, experiences and positive relationships with adults and children. They learn about rights when their needs are recognised, respected and met within the EYC environment.

Aims

We Aim To:

- Focus on supporting children to develop empathy and an awareness of fairness and fairness towards others.
- Encourage children to build self-confidence, feel valued and know that their voices are listened to.
- Support children to make choices, feel important and develop a strong sense of belonging and identity.
- Foster respectful interactions with adults to empower children to learn about fairness, respect and the importance of trusting relationships.

Methodology

The Curriculum:

- Children's rights are embedded through child-led planning, voice, and choice in learning, and through inclusive play experiences.
- We use age-appropriate discussions, stories, and group-time activities to inform children about their rights and responsibilities.

- Practitioners ensure children have opportunities to reflect on their learning and experiences, fostering awareness of equality, respect, and fairness.

SHANARRI Wellbeing Buddies:

- Safe Stella – safety and protection
- Health Henry – health and wellbeing
- Achieving Andrew – learning and skills
- Nurtured Nora – emotional care
- Active Amir – play and physical activity
- Respected Rhia – respect and inclusion
- Responsible Robbie – personal responsibility
- Included Isabella – belonging and participation

Relationships:

- Practitioners form secure, respectful relationships and use the SHANARRI Buddies to talk to children about rights in a friendly, understandable way.
- Children are supported to build friendships, negotiate differences, and resolve conflicts with guidance from the buddies' principles.
- Staff model rights-respecting behaviour and refer to buddies when praising or supporting children, helping embed understanding of safety, respect, and responsibility.

Inclusion and Equality:

- We celebrate diversity and promote equality, ensuring every child is seen, heard, and valued, with the SHANARRI buddies used as a visual and interactive guide to inclusion.
- The nursery challenges stereotypes and discrimination, using the SHANARRI buddies to help children relate inclusion to their rights.

Safeguarding & Child Protection:

- We follow robust safeguarding and child protection procedures and advocate every child's right to protection.
- Practitioners are trained to recognise risks and act promptly, often using stories as examples to help children understand who to approach if they feel unsafe.

- All parents are issued with the 'My Body Belongs to Me' booklet sharing information on positive protective messages.
- All parents receive further information on Children's Rights via our 'Welcome Package'
- Our safeguarding and Child Protection practice aligns with Scottish Government guidance, Care Inspectorate standards, and local authority child protection procedures.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

- Practitioners use SHANARRI Wellbeing Buddies to communicate rights in child-friendly language.
- Our Children's Rights Charter and 'Right of the Month' experiences, empower children to understand their rights, responsibilities, and key values like kindness, respect, and safety.
- Our Children's Rights ambassador facilitates a Home-Link resource which strengthens parent and child communication and raises awareness of children's rights within the home.

Rights Respecting EYC Commitment

- Children's rights, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, are embedded across our curriculum, relationships, and EYC environment. Through our SHANARRI Wellbeing Buddies, children learn about their rights in meaningful and age-appropriate ways and are supported to express their views, make choices, and participate in decisions that affect them.

Policy Updated	April 2026
Review Date	April 2027
Reviewed By:	Patricia Ross Depute Head of Centre
Document	Document Links
Up, Up and Away	
Quality Improvement Framework	Nurture, Care and Support Wellbeing, Inclusion and Equity
Health and Wellbeing Standards – Early Years Scotland:	1.1,1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.4, 3.1, 3.4
UNCRC	Article 3, 2,6,12,19,23,24,28,29,31

