



Children's rights and entitlements

Policy statement

- Southwell Smiley Faces promote children's right to be *strong, resilient and listened to* by creating an environment in Southwell Smiley Faces that encourages children to develop a positive self image, which includes their heritage arising from their colour and ethnicity, their languages spoken at home, their religious beliefs, cultural traditions and home background.
- Southwell Smiley Faces promote children's right to be *strong, resilient and listened to* by encouraging children to develop a sense of autonomy and independence.
- Southwell Smiley Faces promote children's right to be *strong, resilient and listened to* by enabling children to have the self-confidence and the vocabulary to resist inappropriate approaches.
- Southwell Smiley Faces help children to establish and sustain satisfying relationships within their families, with peers, and with other adults.
- Southwell Smiley Faces work with parents to build their understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of safeguarding all our children.

What it means to promote children's rights and entitlements to be '*strong, resilient and listened to*'.

Southwell Smiley Faces says to be strong means:

- secure in their foremost attachment 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 on;
- safe and valued as individuals in their families and in relationships beyond the family, such as day care or school;
- self assured and form a positive sense of themselves – including all aspects of their identity and heritage;
- included equally and belong in early years settings and in community life;
- confident in abilities and proud of their achievements;

- progressing optimally in all aspects of their development and learning;
- to be part of a peer group in which to learn to negotiate, develop social skills and identity as global citizens, respecting the rights of others in a diverse world; and
- to participate and be able to represent themselves in aspects of service delivery that affects them as well as aspects of key decisions that affect their lives.

Southwell Smiley Faces says to be resilient means to:

- be sure of their self worth and dignity;
- be able to be assertive and state their needs effectively;
- be able to overcome difficulties and problems;
- be positive in their outlook on life;
- be able to cope with challenge and change;
- have a sense of justice towards self and others;
- develop a sense of responsibility towards self and others; and
- be able to represent themselves and others in key decision making processes.

Southwell Smiley Faces says to be listened to means:

- Southwell Smiley Faces staff who work closely with the children recognise their need and right to express and communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas;
- Southwell Smiley Faces staff who closely with children are able to tune in to their verbal, sign and body language in order to understand and interpret what is being expressed and communicated;
- Southwell Smiley Faces staff who work closely with children are able to respond appropriately and, when required, act upon their understanding of what children express and communicate; and
- Southwell Smiley Faces staff respect children's rights and facilitate children's participation and representation in imaginative and child centred ways in all aspects of core services.

The following policies support our Children's Rights and Entitlements Policy:

The Role of the Key-Person in the Setting
Safeguarding Children and Child-Protection

This policy is applicable to both Pre-School and Out of School Club