

# Palomar College Child Development Department

## Statement of Commitment and Confidentiality

As an individual who works with and/or observes young children, I commit myself to furthering the values of early childhood education as they are reflected in the ideals and principles of the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct.

To the best of my ability I will...

- Never harm children.
- Comply with the CHDV Department General Observation and Activity Guidelines.
- Not have conversations with other students or teachers while observing or doing an activity.
- Keep observation notes private both in the classroom and when I leave.
- Not bring cell phones, food, or drinks into the classroom.
- Centers are not liable for any injuries you incur due to a variety of uneven surfaces, materials on the floor, toys left out by children... It is important to wear proper attire (i.e. closed toed shoes) when in a classroom with children.
- Not bring any weapons, medications or other dangerous or toxic substances onto Center grounds. This includes such items as pepper spray or aspirin (or other over the counter or prescription medications) you carry in your purse. These things are a hazard to the children. If you must have a medication on you at all times, let the director know and discuss how to protect the children.
- Avoid perfume and cologne. Strong odors can fuel asthma attacks in some children.
- Ensure that programs and activities for young children are based on current knowledge and research of child development and early childhood education.
- Respect and support families in their task of nurturing children.
- Respect colleagues (teachers, staff, and classmates) in early childhood care and education and support them in maintaining the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct.
- Serve as an advocate for children, their families, and their teachers in community and society.
- Stay informed of and maintain high standards of professional conduct.
- Engage in an ongoing process of self-reflection, realizing that personal characteristics, biases, and beliefs have an impact on children and families.
- Be open to new ideas and be willing to learn from the suggestions of others.
- Continue to learn, grow, and contribute as a professional.
- Honor the ideals and principles of the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct.

This Statement of Commitment is not part of the Code but is a personal acknowledgment of the individual's willingness to embrace the distinctive values and moral obligations of the field of early childhood care and education. It is recognition of the moral obligations that lead to an individual becoming part of the profession.

### **Confidentiality Statement:**

Ethical behavior requires confidentiality be maintained at all times. This means that discussion about children take place only in class and/or with your professors. All notes and writing must be protected so as not to accidentally or purposefully disclose information about the children and families. Students are breaching confidentiality if they discuss families, children, and staff with others who are not in the class, with classmates outside class, or if they allow others to read their notes and papers. **Students may discuss children in a professional way in class with the other students in that class only.** Students may not make recordings of class discussions. Students should use a pseudonym (made up name) for children in their observations and the word "teacher" to describe staff.

If a parent or other adult asks me for information about a child or situation, I will politely excuse myself from the conversation and refer the parent to the classroom staff. Students are prohibited from initiating conversation with parents.

If I see something that concerns me and I believe the safety of the children is compromised, I will go immediately to the lead teacher or director and report what I have seen. I will discuss all other concerns with my course instructor privately outside of the adult classroom situation.

By signing this statement, I agree to adhere to the policies, statement of commitment and confidentiality as stated above.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Class(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Semester: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Initials: \_\_\_\_\_