

Editorial for Summit Sun
12th June 09

Snowy Mountains Care and Early Learning Centre Director and Staff

Our Parent Information Evening was quite well attended last month, the feedback has been very positive. As discussed Behaviour **guidance** (rather than control) recognises that children and adults have the same emotional needs and that both need a respectful, nurturing and safe environment. The difference is that children cannot easily change their world if these needs are not met. All of us have rights and finding a balance of mutual respect can be the challenge.

In relation to this as parents and educators it is important that we recognise and endorse the United Nations 'Rights of the Child' in particular

Article 12 – respect for the views and opinions of the child.

Article 29 – children's education should respect each child's personality, talents and abilities. It recognises that play is an essential part of learning. Viewing children as capable and competent is a great first step, then we can begin to help children learn coping skills, self-discipline, develop a sense of empathy and self-control.

Mary Sheedy Kurcinka in 'Raising your Spirited Child' asks us to redesign the negative labels that we often give to children for example

- Change: Noisy and Loud to Enthusiastic
- Stubborn to Persistent
- Wild to Energetic

If you would like to explore behaviour guidance further you can refer to Mary Sheedy's book and Dr. Louise Porter 'Children are People Too.'

Yours in education – Carol Barkley