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representing NC's private licensed child care & education community

Rule .0501 Staff/Child Interactions

**TOP
PRIORITY**

Background

This is a proposed NEW rule. It was originally placed in the School Age Rules, but the Division and/or Commission relocated it to be the intentionally-placed **first** rule in section .0500 so that it will apply to all ages of children.

Our position on the INTENT of the rule:

- We believe there should be positive interactions between staff and children.
- We think these suggestions are appropriate as part of professional development, orientation, etc.

Our feedback from providers has been:

- This rule is a **duplication** of indicators already monitored through the environment rating scales, by assessors who have been through extensive training. **Each assessment has its own subscale devoted entirely to Interaction.**
- This rule is **ambiguous** because there is no **indicated measure** for these behaviors, such as how many times it must be observed or not observed in order to be in compliance or in violation.
- There is **no time frame given** for observance of these behaviors, and often the licensing consultants are only in a classroom for 5-10 minutes.

Questions that have been posed are:

- What if the consultant only sees one instance of eye contact and one instance where eye contact is not made?
- What if the consultant sees eye contact and idea sharing, but not problem-solving skills?
- If the consultant sees one instance where one of the items on the list is not followed, will they be cited or will they be looking for more than one instance? Or a pattern?
- Children from different cultures view “welcoming” differently...what if I am respecting the child and family but appear to be unwelcoming to the consultant?
- The consultant is usually in the room for only a short period and they’re looking at schedules, lesson plans, varieties of toys, locked cabinets, and many other things. The assessors spend several hours and are in a much better position to observe interactions, so why is this being duplicated?

NCLCCA Position: These “best practice” recommendations should be incorporated into child care programs by being added to the Child Care Handbook, included in Early Childhood Credential and Administration coursework, and addressed in DCD trainings such as pre-licensing workshops and Director’s Meetings. However, rule .0501 should not be added, since it is difficult to measure and is a duplication of items already monitored through a whole Subscale devoted to Interaction within the ITERS-R, ECERS-R and SACERS.

10A NCAC 09 .0501 is proposed for adoption as follows:

**BRAND
NEW RULE**

**SECTION .0500 ~~AGE APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES FOR CENTERS~~
AGE AND DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTS FOR CENTERS**

10A NCAC 09 .0501 STAFF/CHILD INTERACTIONS

Staff will relate to children in positive ways by helping them feel welcome and comfortable, treating them with respect, listening to what they say, responding to them with acceptance and appreciation and participating in many activities with the children.

Staff shall:

- (1) Make eye contact whenever possible when speaking to children.
- (2) Engage children in conversation to share experiences, ideas and opinions.
- (3) Help children develop problem-solving skills.
- (4) Facilitate learning by providing positive reinforcement, encouraging efforts and recognizing accomplishments.

History Note: Authority G.S. 110-85; 110-91(8), (11); 143B-168.3;
Eff. April 1, 2010.