

Children's Rights, Responsibilities and Entitlements Policy

St. Martini Pre-Primary School (RF) NPC
(hereinafter referred to as SMPPS)

1. List of Children's Rights that Inform the Practices at SMPPS

- Article 1 – Everyone under the age of 18 has rights.
- Article 2 – All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.
- Article 3 – All adults should do what is best for the children. All the decisions made at SMPPS, the first consideration is the children's well-being.
- Article 5 – A child's family has the responsibility to help them learn to exercise their rights, and to ensure that those rights are protected. To this end SMPPS is inclusive and strongly encourages parental involvement.
- Article 6 – Every child has the right to be alive. We have strong Health and Safety and Emergency Preparedness Policies implemented at SMPPS.
- Article 8 – A child has the right to be protected from kidnapping. Safety and security procedures are detailed in our Emergency Preparedness Policy. No child is allowed off the premises without permissions from his/her parents/guardians.
- Article 12 – A child has the right to give an opinion, and for adults to take it seriously. Opinions and thoughts are encouraged in our daily activities and language rings.
- Article 13 – A child has the right to find out things and share what he/she thinks with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends others.
- Article 14 – A child has the right for the staff at SMPPS to:
 - Respect their freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, unless it jeopardises the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.
 - Respect the rights and duties of the parents/legal guardian.
 - Provide direction to the child so that they begin to understand their rights and responsibilities in an age-appropriate manner.
- Article 15 – A child has the right to choose their own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others. Friendships are highly encouraged at SMPPS.
- Article 17 - A child has the right to get information that is important to their well-being. The adults at SMPPS constantly share information the information they need with the children.
- Article 19 – A child has the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in mind or body. We know our children well at SMPPS and keep an eye on their mental and physical health and we communicate with the parents/guardians. We have a zero-tolerance policy at our ECD centre.
- Article 24 – A child has the right to best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help them stay well.

- Article 28 – All children have the right to a good quality education. At SMPPS our practitioners are qualified, and we endeavour to deliver a quality curriculum and excellent care.
- Article 30 – A child has the right to practice their own culture, language, and religion. We are fully inclusive at SMPPS. It should be noted that our language of tuition is German.
- Article 31 – A child has the right to play and rest. Our curriculum is play-based and encourages child-led play and adult-guided activities. Rest times are encouraged as per our daily routine. If a child comes to school in the mornings and is consistently tired, we will arrange an appointment with the parent/guardian to try and establish if the child is getting sufficient rest.
- Article 34 – A child has the right to be free from sexual abuse. Every single member of staff at SMPPS has provided their fingerprints and been checked through the Crimes Database and Sexual Offenders Register; certificates to this effect have been produced. In addition, we have a strong Anti-Child Abuse and Child Protection Policy implemented, which gives reporting procedures and how to handle any child abuse situation.
- Article 37 – No one is allowed to punish a child in a cruel or harmful way. We take the greatest care possible of ‘our children’ and harsh, cruel, or harmful punishments are never meted out. To do so in our environment is a dismissible offence, and we will not hesitate.
- Article 39 – A child has the right to help if he/she has been hurt, neglected, or badly treated. The children are always helped and, if necessary, we will get involved if we suspect that a child is being neglected or badly treated at home.
- Article 42 – Child have the right to know their rights. The adults at SMPPS all know the Children’s Rights, Responsibilities and Entitlements as shown on the poster at the back of this document. These are the rights and responsibilities we teach to the children.
- Protection of Personal Information Act:
 - Section 11 – Consent, justification and objection
 - Section 32 – Authorisation concerning a data subject’s health
 - Section 33 – Authorisation concerning a data subject’s biometric information
 - Section 34 – Prohibition on processing personal information of children
 - Section 35 – General authorisation concerning personal information of children
 - Section 57 – Processing subject to prior authorisation
 - Section 58 – Responsible party to notify Regulator if processing is subject to prior authorisation

Please also refer to the SMPPS POPIA Policy.

2. Policy Statement

- SMPPS promotes children's right to be strong, resilient, and listened to by:
 - Creating an environment that encourages our children to develop positive self-images. We are inclusive and encourage exploration of their individual heritages arising from their ethnicity, languages spoken at home, religious beliefs, cultural traditions, and home backgrounds.
 - We encourage the children to develop a sense of autonomy and independence.
 - Our curriculum and care enable the children to have the self-confidence and the vocabulary to get help when they are in difficult situations.

- SMPPS helps children to establish and maintain healthy relationships with their families, peers, caregivers at the centre, and with other adults.
- We work with parents to build their understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of safeguarding all our children.

3. SMPPS promotes children's right and entitlement to be 'strong, resilient and listened to'

- To be strong:
 - We are involved with 'our' families and promote security in the children's primary relationships, where they are loved and cared for by at least one person who can offer consistent, positive, and unconditional regard and who can be relied upon.
 - We provide an environment in which the children can feel safe and progress optimally in all their learning and developmental areas.
 - By guiding the children to feel self-assured so that they can form a positive sense of themselves - including all aspects of their identity and heritage.
 - By including all children equally.
 - We praise the children to encourage their confidence in their own abilities and to take pride in their achievements.
 - By making group times part of the routines so that the children form part of their peer group and learn to negotiate, develop social skills, and respect the rights of others.
- To be resilient:
 - By encouraging the children to be sure of their self-worth and dignity.
 - We guide the children to be assertive, but not disrespectful, and to be able to state their needs.
 - We (age appropriately) encourage the children to try and overcome small difficulties by themselves.
 - We provide a controlled, safe, fun environment in which children can feel positive.
 - Sometimes things must change due to circumstances, and when this happens, we support the children so that they learn to cope with change.
 - We encourage the children to be fair towards each other and to develop a sense of responsibility towards themselves and their peers.
 - Developing a sense of justice towards themselves and others.
- To be listened to:
 - The adults at SMPPS recognise children's need and the right to express and communicate their thoughts, feelings, and ideas.
 - Our staff are trained and experienced and they can tune into the children's verbal, sign (gestures) and body language to interpret what is being communicated and meet the needs.
 - Our staff are all aware of, and respect, children's rights, and responsibilities. We actively and enthusiastically advocate for children's rights.