

Indiana District Early Childhood Cabinet Code of Ethics and Covenant Agreement

What is a CODE OF ETHICS?

A Code of Ethics offers guidelines for responsible behavior among members of a profession. A Code of Ethics is a set of standards which define members of a professional group. These standards ask:

- ❖ What is *right* rather than what is expedient.
- ❖ What is *good* rather than what is simply practical.
- ❖ What is the *ethical* course of action?

What is a COVENANT OF AGREEMENT?

A Covenant Agreement is a personal acknowledgement of an individual's willingness to embrace distinctive values and moral obligations.

The CODE OF ETHICS for early childhood educators includes professional relationships with:

- 1) Children**
- 2) Families**
- 3) Coworkers**
- 4) Employers**

Ethical Responsibilities to Children:

- ❖ Provide an environment that is safe, healthy, nurturing and responsive to children's needs.
- ❖ Support children's development and learning.
- ❖ Respect individual differences.
- ❖ Help children learn to live, play, work and cooperate with one another in a Christian manner.
- ❖ Promote children's self-awareness, competence, self-worth rooted in Christ's love, resiliency and physical well-being.

Ethical Responsibilities to Families:

- ❖ Work collaboratively with families to enhance children's development.
- ❖ Intentionally create relationships with families.
- ❖ Welcome family members and encourage their involvement (including shared decision-making).

- ❖ Respect family differences.
- ❖ Support and encourage families in the development of Christian parenting skills.
- ❖ Maintain confidentiality.

Ethical Responsibilities to Coworkers:

- ❖ Establish and maintain relationships of respect, trust, confidentiality, collaboration and cooperation with coworkers.
- ❖ Recognize the contributions of coworkers.
- ❖ Share resources with coworkers and collaborate to ensure the best early childhood care.
- ❖ Support coworkers in meeting their professional needs.
- ❖ Resolve conflicts by first sharing concerns with coworkers in a way that shows respect for personal dignity and, then, attempt to resolve the matter in a collegial and Christ-like way while maintaining confidentiality.

Ethical Responsibilities to Employers:

- ❖ Assist the program in providing the highest quality of service.
- ❖ Do nothing to diminish the reputation of the program unless there is a violation of law or regulations designed to protect children.
- ❖ Follow all program policies.
- ❖ Speak and/or act on behalf of the organization only when authorized.

COVENANT AGREEMENT:

As a Lutheran Early Childhood Educator and a redeemed member of God's family, I commit myself to His service and to the welfare of His children.

I, therefore, in accordance with God's Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit resolve to conduct myself professionally at all times and in accordance with the above Code of Conduct.

I will accept and respect all people

You are all (children) of God through faith in Christ Jesus . . . There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:26, 28

I will keep the confidentiality entrusted to me.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Eph. 4:29

I will support the programs and people who share my ministry.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

I will be honest and trustworthy in all my dealings.

Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. Hebrews 13:18

I will make the welfare of each child the primary basis for all decisions and actions.

Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me: and whoever welcomes Me does not welcome Me but the One who sent Me. Mark 9:37

I agree to enter into this Covenant Agreement with God and my peers as a professional Lutheran Early Childhood Educator. I subscribe to this Code of Ethics and will, by the grace of God, act in accordance with it.

Signature

Date