



## Hospital Play Specialists Association of Aotearoa/New Zealand Inc.

### CODE OF ETHICS

The Hospital Play Specialists' Association subscribes to a body of ethical statements (in accordance with a philosophical base) which are derived primarily for the benefit of children, young people and their families in the health care setting.

Members of the association share the goals of:

1. Maximising the physical and emotional health as well as the social, cognitive and developmental abilities of children and young people
2. Minimising the potential stress that children, young people and their families may experience in the health care setting.

Towards these ends members of the Association recognise that they are ethically responsible to:

1. Children, young people and families
2. Other professionals in the health care setting
3. Students and volunteers who are receiving training and supervision
4. Themselves, both personally and professionally.

It is understood that ethical behaviour should not result from edict but from personal commitment on the part of the individual as a professional. In any situation, the course of action chosen is expected to be consistent with the ethical values either stated or implied herein.

#### **Principle 1**

Individuals shall hold paramount the welfare of the children, young people and families with whom they work.

#### **Principle 2**

Individuals shall maintain objectivity, integrity and competence in meeting the highest standards of their profession.

#### **Principle 3**

Individuals shall have an obligation to work with children, young people, and families regardless of their individual differences including culture, gender, or medical/psychological and sociological status.

#### **Principle 4**

Individuals shall respect the privacy of children, young people and families and shall maintain confidentiality of information concerning them notwithstanding appropriate professional intercommunication.

**Principle 5**

Individuals shall promote the development of their profession by continuous efforts to improve the professional services and practices which they provide in the health care setting and in the wider community.

**Principle 6**

Individuals shall continually seek knowledge which will update and enhance their understanding of health care and social issues affecting children, young people and their families.

**Principle 7**

Individuals engaged in study and research shall be guided by the conventions of scholarly inquiry and shall recognise their responsibility for ethical practice in research.

**Principle 8**

Individuals have an obligation to engage only in those areas in which they are qualified and not to represent themselves otherwise, but to make appropriate referrals with due regard for the special competencies of other members of the health care team.

**Principle 9**

Individuals shall act with respect for the duties, competencies and needs of their colleagues in other health related professions and shall maintain the utmost integrity in all dealings with the institutions or organisations which employ them.

**Principle 10**

Individuals shall recognise the possibility that personal problems, needs and conflicts may perhaps interfere with their professional effectiveness and shall use integrity to assess and amend any situations which may otherwise result in disharmony, inadequate performance or the using of children, young people and families to meet personal needs.

**Principle 11**

Individuals shall recognise that their own financial gain should never take precedence over the delivery of services.

**Principle 12**

Individuals who are responsible for the supervision and training of others shall assume responsibility for teaching ethical values and providing optimal learning experiences.

**Principle 13**

Individuals shall not engage in illegal conduct nor act with impropriety which may compromise or impede the fulfilment of their professional responsibilities.

[Approved September 1996]