

## Code of Ethics

Ethical behaviour results from personal commitment on the part of the individual hospital play specialist, with regard to safeguarding the interests of children, young people and their families. This Code of Ethics is written with the aim of providing guidance when a professional problem, dilemma or conflict of values arises. Ethical dilemmas are complex, and there may be no clear right answer or solution. The professional interactions of hospital play specialists are governed by four fundamental principles: Autonomy (Te whanonga mana motuhake), Justice (Te whanonga tika), Responsible Care (Te whanonga o te takohanga mo te tiaki), and Truth (Te whanonga o te pono).

### Suggestions for using this Code of Ethics:

1. In collaboration with appropriate others, identify the main issues.
2. Consider the various possible responses to the dilemma.
3. Take each in turn and refer to the Code to identify the underlying principles.
4. Decide which principles are the most important in this situation.
5. Use these principles as a guide in choosing your solution.
6. Keep in mind that there is usually more than one solution and that the solutions carry with them different degrees of advantage or disadvantage for the people involved.
7. Remember to consider any legal dimensions as many ethical problems and potential solutions will have a legal consequence

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## Hospital Play Specialists Association of Aotearoa/New Zealand

*In the exercising of professional accountability, the hospital play specialist shall act in accordance with the following principles:*

Principle 1: <b>Autonomy</b>	Principle 2: <b>Justice</b>	Principle 3: <b>Responsible Care</b>	Principle 4: <b>Truth</b>
<p><i>Te whanonga mana motuhake</i></p> <p><i>To treat people as individuals with rights that are to be honoured and defended</i></p>	<p><i>Te whanonga tika</i></p> <p><i>To share power and to prevent the abuse of power</i></p>	<p><i>Te whanonga o te takohanga mo te tiaki</i></p> <p><i>To do good and minimise harm to others</i></p>	<p><i>Te whanonga o te pono</i></p> <p><i>To be honest with themselves and others</i></p>
<p><b>1.1</b> Work with children, young people and families in ways that recognise and respect individual differences and differences between culture, ethnicity and language.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Recognise and respect the role of patients and their families as partners in their care and the contribution they can make to it. This involves identifying their preferences regarding care and respecting these within the limits of professional practice, existing legislation, resources and the goals of the therapeutic relationship.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Be personally accountable for ensuring that the interests and dignity of children and young people are promoted and protected irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, sexuality, economic status, lifestyle, culture, language and religious or political belief.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Respect the privacy of children, young people and families and confidential information obtained in the course of professional practice, refraining from disclosure of such information except where disclosure is required by law or is necessary in the public interest.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Maintain appropriate professional boundaries in the relationships with the child, young person and family at all times, ensuring that all aspects of the relationship focus exclusively upon their wellbeing.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Avoid any abuse of the privileged relationship which exists with children, young people and their parents/carers.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Refuse to accept any offers of gifts, favours or hospitality which might be interpreted as seeking to exert undue influence or preferential consideration.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Uphold public trust and confidence in the profession by maintaining appropriate personal and professional standards.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Safeguard the wellbeing and interests of children, young people and their families at all times, having regard to the environment of care and its physical, psychological and social effects.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Ensure that no act or omission is detrimental to the condition or the safety of children and young people in their care.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Collaborate and cooperate with colleagues and other professional personnel, acting with respect for their duties, competencies and needs, and maintain the utmost integrity in all dealings with the institutions or organisations which employ them.</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Refrain from illegal conduct or any acts of impropriety which may compromise or impede the fulfilment of professional responsibilities or bring the profession into disrepute.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Make known to the appropriate person any conscientious objection that is relevant to the scope of professional practice.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Have an obligation: to engage only in those areas in which they are qualified and not to represent themselves otherwise; To make appropriate referrals with due regard for the special competencies of members of other professions working with the family.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Recognise the possibility that personal beliefs, values, needs and conflicts may compromise their professional effectiveness and judgement. Use integrity to assess and address any situations which may otherwise result in disharmony, inadequate performance or the using of children, young people and families to meet personal needs.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Be personally accountable for their own practice. This means being answerable for any actions and omissions, regardless of advice or directions from another professional.</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Speak out if the behaviour of a colleague is seriously in breach of this Code of Ethics.</p>