

Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships.

## Section 1. Early career educator



You must know

When you become an educator, it's important to know there are professional standards to guide your practice, interactions and relationships.

**Legal and Regulatory Non-Compliance:** If we don't follow the rules and laws that are meant to keep children safe and ensure a good learning environment, we can get into trouble. This can mean getting fined, facing penalties, or even having our service shut down. So, it's very important to follow these rules.

**Quality of Education:** If we don't pay attention to how we teach and care for children, their learning can suffer. This means they might not have as much fun learning, and it can slow down how much they learn and grow.

**Ethical Dilemmas:** Imagine you have a special set of rules for how to behave nicely and fairly. If we don't follow these rules, we can get into tricky situations, like telling secrets about someone or not being fair to everyone. This can make people upset and ruin our relationships with families and friends.

**Inconsistent Practice:** It's like everyone playing a game by different rules. This can make some children feel like they're not being treated the same as others. We want to make sure we treat everyone fairly and equally.

**Negative Impact on Children and Families:** Think of it like this: if we're not friendly and make everyone feel welcome, it can make children and families sad or uncomfortable. We want everyone to feel happy and safe when they come to our school.

**Lack of Professionalism:** Being professional means acting like a professional at work. If we don't do that, we can have problems with our coworkers and make

our service look bad. So, we need to be nice, fair, and act like professionals at our jobs.



You must practice

It's important that we know how to act professionally and make sure our practices, interactions and relationships are guided by standards.

To help with the problems mentioned earlier on the left side, let's take a look at some real-life examples for guidance.

**Legal and Regulatory Non-Compliance:** Make sure everyone in the team knows the important rules and law and regulations for keeping children safe. Use a checklist to be sure we follow all the rules, like keeping records and making sure things are safe. We should also have one person in charge of staying updated about any rule changes.

**Quality of Education:** We should check if we are doing a good job in teaching and caring for children. To do this, we can look at a list of quality standards and see how we're doing. We should also talk to other educators and parents to see if we can do better. And, we can learn more about teaching by taking special classes.

**Ethical Dilemmas:** We should make a list of rules for being nice and fair to everyone. We need to follow these rules always. If we're not sure, we should ask someone for help. We can also talk to others about times when it's hard to be fair or nice.

**Inconsistent Practice:** It's like playing a game with the same rules for everyone. We need to make sure we treat all children, families and educators the same and don't have favourites. If we're not sure, we can talk to each other and learn from each other.

### Week 30, 18 to 22 September 2023 – 4.2.2 Professional Standards

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**Negative Impact on Children and Families:**

We want everyone to feel happy and welcome. To do this, we should be friendly and learn about different cultures. We can also invite parents to join in on fun events. If someone is upset, we should talk to them to make things better.

**Lack of Professionalism:** At work, we should act like professionals. This means being respectful and working well with others. If someone does something unprofessional, we should report it. We can also reward those who always act professionally and do a good job.

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you doing well? Describe your practice in detail.

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you need to work on? Describe how you could improve your practice.