

Nova Scotia Child Care Association

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Ethical Practice

The importance of ethical practice:

On a daily basis Early Childhood Educators are faced with decisions where the welfare of children and colleagues is at stake, where others are affected by decisions made. Caring for Nova Scotia's children is a huge responsibility and requires that practice is ethical. Having the ethical decision making process in place ensures that the practice is accountable and responsible for best practices and professional integrity for Nova Scotia Child Care Association (NSCCA) members. Ethical practice is the Nova Scotia Child Care Association's commitment to society.

The NSCCA Code of Ethics provides guidelines for responsible behaviour as an Early Childhood practitioner. These Code of Ethics provides consideration that is needed to refer to when making ethical decisions.

The NSCCA Code of Ethics is a compilation of the beliefs regarding:

- What is right rather than expedient
- What is good rather than practical and
- What acts members must never engage in or condone.

Ethical practice:

Ethical decisions involve choosing the right action in situations where the welfare of people is at stake. These decisions are based on our ideas of how people ought to behave, how we ought to treat one another, and what our obligations are to people (Griffin & Ricks, (1994) *Taking Right Action*, Vancouver: ECEBC). Ethical practice involves recognizing when decisions have ethical components, knowing how personal values and beliefs affect ethical decisions and being skilled in the use of an ethical decision making model, utilizing the NSCCA code of ethics and other appropriate considerations.

Ethics:

*Moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity
A branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles (Oxford Dictionary)*