

## The Ethos

In 2019 ERCKWA changed the title of the training being made available to staff and volunteers from 'Behaviour Management' to 'Encouraging Positive Action Training.' This change reflects the move towards an approach that is proactive as opposed to reactive. It also empowers the volunteers to see themselves as role models that can have an impact on the children's interactions with others.



## Understanding Our Kids

A high percentage of the children who attend ERCKWA programs suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). As a result, the volunteers are given training in Trauma so that they have the necessary understanding of associated behaviours and can provide support.

ERCKWA also provides information on how children may act when they have a behavioural disorder or need support in social situations. Edmund Rice Camps reminds its volunteers that children who are taking medication may act in a way that is contrary to their will or society's expectations.



**ERCKWA**

Encouraging Positive  
Action Information





## The Camp Environment

Each camp is unique and the people who attend will change from program to program.

Staff and volunteers strive to create an environment prior to the kids arriving that sets the scene for the type of behaviours they expect. One that is based on;



- Trust & Respect
- Fairness & Consistency
- Genuine Care & Interest
- Boundaries vs Rules
- Engaged vs Supervised
- Ongoing Positive Feedback

This way when the kids enter the program on day 2 they are already aware of the behaviour expected.

## Role Modelling



The basis for the 'Encouraging Positive Action' model is the fact that the volunteers attending will be role models to the children. This is subtle and will happen anyway; however the volunteers are reminded of the power they have to empower the kids in positive interactions and communications.



## Restorative Justice

This strategy involves the children in determining the outcome of their



behaviour. The technique sees the volunteers ask the children a series of questions about their behaviour to have them come up with what should happen as a result eg. To apologise.



## The Check-out System

Volunteers hand over to other volunteers in situations they feel they cannot manage. They are encouraged to seek help from others in a hierarchical manner.



## Scenario Based Training

Volunteers are taught using examples from the program so that they have a good understanding of what to expect and prevention.