

C. REVISED CODE OF ETHICS**1. What is the Code of Ethics (CoE) for the Early Childhood (EC) professionals?**

The Code of Ethics (CoE) outlines the professional responsibilities that every EC professional must uphold in practice. It articulates the beliefs and guiding principles to which EC professionals commit themselves to as members of the profession. It aims to guide decision-making and inspire a collegial network of professionals who are committed to accountability and improving professional practice.

2. What is the purpose of revising the CoE?

The EC sector has rapidly evolved over the years, marked by the introduction of ECDC Act (2017), ECDC Regulations (2018), Code of Practice (3rd Edition, 2024) and other EC-related frameworks. These significant developments, coupled with expansion and rising demand for high-quality preschool services, have expanded our educators' responsibilities. Consequently, this has necessitated a revision of the Code to ensure its continued relevance in guiding educators across both EC and Early Intervention (EI) settings during their daily practice.

3. Who is this Code for?

This Code sets out the guidelines for all EC professionals in all their roles and forms of practice. It seeks to inspire and empower educators and leaders in EC and EI settings to make sound professional judgements in their daily practice. It also serves as a resource for professional dialogue about ethical practices.

While primarily meant for EC professionals, pre-service educators and operators are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Code. This seeks to ensure that pre-service educators are aware of the ethical behaviour and practice expected of the EC professions. Operators will also be able to support their staff in upholding the Code so that a high level of trust and public confidence in the EC sector can be maintained.

4. How does the revised Code support EC professionals in their daily practice?

The revised Code is guided by five principles that provide explicit and tangible guidance for EC professionals. The guiding principles are:

1. We practise **care and concern** for children through prioritising their safety, health, and well-being.
2. We demonstrate **respect** for the child and the bond between the child and family in the contexts of our culture, community, and society.
3. We embrace **diversity** by valuing each person's uniqueness within an inclusive community.
4. We work with **integrity** to gain trust and support of the child, family, and community.
5. We carry out our roles and obligations in a manner that reflects **responsibility** and accountability as EC professionals.

To support them in making sound judgements in their work, the revised Code more clearly outlines the beliefs and responsibilities for each of the following stakeholders: children, families and the profession (fellow educators, other professionals and the community). These are expressed in actionable terms to enable application for educators. There are also case studies designed to generate discussions amongst colleagues and raise questions for professional reflection.

5. How can EC professionals or organisations access the revised Code?

The revised Code can be found on the official website of Association for Early Childhood Educators Singapore (AECES) at the following URL: <https://www.aeces.org/coe/>

6. Are there any training sessions or workshops planned to complement the revised Code?

ECDA intends to collaborate with AECES to provide training on the revised Code. More details on the training will be communicated to the EC professionals by first half of 2025.