8. Choose your own ethical adventure

The ECA Code of Ethics can be used to think about situations that might happen, in preparation for making informed ethical decisions in the future.

Consider the following examples or come up with an example from your own practice experience.

Mohammed is the youngest of eight children and he comes to preschool with shoes that are too big for him. Recently he has had a few accidents outside on the climbing equipment because his shoes don’t fit. His mum is concerned that he is not being supervised properly. There have been some discussions about how to respond to Mohammed’s mum—should the childhood professionals raise the issue of the size of the shoes?

Aimee is 18 months old and her mum has asked her family day care educator to follow a strict sleeping and eating plan that requires waking up Aimee to feed her and preventing her from sleeping when she is visibly ready to sleep. How should the educator respond?

A childhood professional working in an after school program overhears a group of girls telling some boys they can’t play with them because boys aren’t allowed to play this game. When she asks another colleague what she should do or say, the colleague says it is normal behaviour for girls at this age and to ignore it. Should the childhood professional ignore the girls’ comments?

Two Foundation teachers in a school would like to use a more play-based and active learning approach in their classrooms. The majority of Foundation teachers are resistant to this idea as they believe parents won’t like this approach and they don’t feel that play is an appropriate way for school-age children to learn. How could the teachers who want to use play-based approaches respond?

*Use the Code of Ethics and the Ethical Decision-Making Cycle (pages 20, 54) to discuss what you would do.*