

Managing Children's Behaviour

HACKENTHORPE HALL NURSERY

POLICY – Managing Children's Behaviour (September 2022)

We are responsible for managing children's behaviour in an appropriate way.

Our Responsibilities

- We do not give or threaten corporal punishment to a child and do not use or threaten any punishment which could adversely affect a child's well-being.
- Corporal punishment is not given by any person who cares for or is in regular contact with a child, or by any person working on the premises.
- An adult will not be taken to have used corporal punishment (and therefore will not have committed an offence), where physical intervention was taken for the purposes of averting immediate danger of personal injury to any child) or to manage a child's behaviour if absolutely necessary.

What is Physical Intervention?

Physical intervention is where our practitioners use reasonable force to prevent children from injuring themselves or others or damaging property.

Record Keeping

We keep a record of any occasion where physical intervention is used, and parents and/or carers are informed via an incident form on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable

Our Nursery Behaviour Management Policy

Policy statement of Purpose

We believe that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are understood, supported and met and where there are clear, fair and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour.

Policy Statement of Intent

As children develop, they learn about boundaries, the difference between right and wrong, and to consider the views and feelings, and needs and rights, of others and the impact that their behaviour has on people, places and objects. The development of these skills requires adult guidance to help encourage and model appropriate behaviours and to offer intervention and support when children struggle with conflict and emotional situations. In these types of situations key staff can help identify and address triggers for the behaviour and help children reflect, regulate and manage their actions.

We manage children's behaviour by using a staged approach as follows:-

Initial intervention approach

- We use an initial problem solving intervention for all situations in which a child or children are distressed or in conflict. All staff use this intervention consistently.
- This type of approach involves an adult approaching the situation calmly, stopping any hurtful actions, acknowledging the feelings of those involved, gathering information, restating the issue to help children reflect, regain control of the situation and resolve the situation themselves.

Focused intervention approach – Observation

- The reasons for some types of behaviour are not always apparent, despite the knowledge and input from key staff, parents and carers.
- Where we have considered all possible reasons, then a focused intervention approach should then be applied.
- This approach allows the key person and behaviour coordinator to observe, reflect, and identify causes and functions of unwanted behaviour in the wider context of other known influences on the child.

Use of rewards and sanctions

- All children need consistent messages, clear boundaries and guidance to intrinsically manage their behaviour through self-reflection and control.
- Rewards such as stickers are carefully considered before applying.
- Children are never labelled, criticised, humiliated, punished, shouted at or isolated by removing them from the group and left alone in 'time out' or on a 'naughty chair'.
- If necessary children are removed from the group in order to calm down and if appropriate helped to reflect on their feelings and what has happened.
- As a guide we use a time limit of 1 minute per year of the child's age (Maximum 4 minutes for a 4 year old) is applied if the child has the understanding to be seated away from the group to reflect.

Use of physical intervention

- The term physical intervention is used to describe any forceful physical contact by an adult to a child such as grabbing, pulling, dragging, or any form of restraint of a child such as holding down. Where a child is upset or angry, we will speak to them calmly, encouraging them to vent their frustration in other ways by diverting the child's attention.

Managing Children's Behaviour

- We will not use physical intervention – or the threat of physical intervention, to manage a child's behaviour unless it is necessary to use reasonable force in order to prevent children from injuring themselves or others or damage property.
- If 'reasonable force' has been used for any of the reasons shown above, parents and carers are informed on the same day that it occurs or as soon as reasonable possible. The intervention is recorded as soon as possible on an Incident form and communicated to Parents/Carers.
- Corporal (physical) punishment of any kind is never used or threatened.

Challenging Behaviour/Aggression by children towards other children

- Any aggressive behaviour by children towards other children will result in a staff member intervening immediately to challenge and prevent escalation.
- If the behaviour has been significant or may potentially have a detrimental effect on the child, the parents/carer of the child who has been the victim of the behaviour and the parents/carers of the child who has been the perpetrator will be informed by our staff using an incident form.
- The Keyperson, if possible will complete an Incident form and communicate this to Parents/Carers
- The Manager will complete a risk assessment relating to the child's challenging behaviour to avoid any further instances.
- Parents/Carers will be asked to sign risk assessments where the risk assessment relates to managing the behaviour of their child.
- The Manager will contact the parents/carers of the child who has been affected by the behaviour to advise them of the incident and the nursery's response to the incident.
- Relevant procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints will be followed if a Parent / Carer raises a concern or complaint about a child's unwanted behaviour.
- Ofsted will be notified if appropriate.