

Safeguarding Children

Positive Handling Policy

At The Island Day Nursery we believe that children have the right to independence, choice and inclusion and we seek to provide opportunities for personal growth and emotional health and well-being. However, rights also involve responsibilities, such as not harming children's rights. Children unable to control their actions or unable to appreciate danger have a right to be protected as do other children. And staff have a duty of care to exercise. We have a behaviour policy in place which actively teaches children our codes of behaviour and places a strong focus on positive praise. This policy works well for the vast majority of our children. However, for a small number of children, we may occasionally need to use positive handling.

Positive Handling

At The Island Day Nursery, we encourage children to be as independent as possible. As part of the process to becoming independent children need varying levels of support from adults to access nursery successfully. On occasions, children seek emotional support from adults including helping with self-care, being shown how to hold a pencil etc and offering comfort. On occasions, there may be some behaviours displayed by a child where physical intervention is needed e.g. guiding a child to sit in a certain place or moving a child so they are safe from danger.

Planning for the use of restrictive physical interventions

The nursery environment is an unpredictable place and therefore it is difficult to plan for individual incidents. All staff are aware that the use of restrictive physical intervention is needed at times when all other forms of behaviour management have been unsuccessful. Staff take responsibility for their own safety in any situation and ensure their own health and safety needs are met. Staff are not expected to carry out any physical intervention that they do not feel comfortable with, but they do have a duty of care for the children which is an overriding factor. Staff are encouraged to gain physical support and/or assistance from senior staff if unsure.

The use of Restrictive Physical Intervention

The law allows for staff to use restrictive physical intervention to prevent a child from doing or continuing to do any of the following:

- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property
- Engaging in any behaviour that is prejudicial to maintain the good order or discipline

Restrictive physical intervention is the term used by the DFE to include interventions where bodily contact requiring force is used. It refers to any instance in which a member of staff has to in specific circumstances use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils. There is no legal definition of 'reasonable force', however there are two relevant considerations:

- The use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances of an incident warrant it
- The degree of the force must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or consequences it is intended to prevent harm or damage

Developing positive handling strategies

If any children are displaying challenging behaviours we will discuss ways of dealing with these behaviours so all staff are aware and consistent in the way that the behaviours are

dealt with. Challenging behaviours are discussed with parents/carers and a behaviour plan will be put into place if necessary.

Persons responsible for implementing this policy:

Erica Dunwell/Heather Bishop/Rosalind Moreno/Cara Bonner – Barton

Erica Dunwell/ Heather Bishop/Jonathan Reed – Sandown

Erica Dunwell/Becky Kujabi/Sam Hicks – Wootton

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