



Physical Intervention Policy

Statement of intent

Child's Play operates a positive Behaviour Policy. It is our aim to establish good behaviour from our children in a caring and supportive environment where the welfare of the children is paramount.

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures to be followed in the rare case of a restrictive physical intervention being used by a member of staff towards a child.

The use of physical intervention/restraint is wherever possible avoided. However, where necessary and appropriate, reasonable force may be used to control or restrain children.

Methods

It is our aim to:

- Create a warm, calm and orderly atmosphere that promotes a sense of community.
- Achieve a consistent attitude by all staff that gives pupils a sense of security and safety whilst promoting clear expectations on acceptable behaviour.
- Ensure that all staff, relevant directors, children, parents/carers understand their roles and responsibility regarding behaviour management.
- Promote the continual development of staff in order for them to acquire the skills of positive behaviour management.

The attitude and behaviour of all staff is essential in creating and maintaining a positive ethos within the Pre-school; the committed team approach will help provide a positive role model for children where they respect themselves and others.

Definitions:

- **Physical intervention** is any method of physically intervening to resolve a difficult or dangerous situation and is not necessarily physical restraint. Any physical intervention should be a supportive act of care and control; not a punitive action by the adult.
- **Physical restraint** is defined as when a member of staff uses force with the intention of restricting a child's movement against their will.

When would we need to restrict a child's movements?

Part of our role as pre-school practitioners is to keep children in our care safe. If a child is behaving in a way that could cause them to hurt themselves, or someone else, we have to try and prevent this from happening.

According to the EYFS "Physical intervention should only be used to manage a child's behaviour if it is necessary to prevent personal injury to the child, other children or an adult, to prevent serious damage to property or in what would reasonably be regarded as exceptional circumstances".

Examples of unacceptable behaviour:

- A child attacks a member of staff or another child
- Children are fighting, causing risk of injury to themselves or others
- A child is committing, or on the verge of committing, deliberate damage to property
- A child is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects
- A child absconds from or tries to leave the setting, other than at an authorised time, and we believe that this may result in injury, damage or disorder
- A child is behaving in a way that seriously disrupts the session

Physical intervention and restraint should be used as a last resort to support children in times of crisis. Restraint should be avoided wherever possible. It is never a substitute for good behaviour management. Other methods (such as defusing conflict, non-physical calming etc) of managing the situation should always be tried first, unless this is impractical.

The degree of force used should be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result. Physical restraint should only be considered an option if:

- Calming and defusing strategies have failed to de-escalate the situation
- The response is in the paramount interests of the child
- Not intervening is likely to result in more dangerous consequences than intervening

When using physical intervention practitioners should:

- Aim for side by side contact between themselves and the child
- Leave no gap between the adult and the child's body
- Avoid holding the child at joints to avoid pain and damage
- Avoid lifting the child
- Not restrict the child's ability to breathe

What is reasonable force?

When physically intervening, the amount of force used should be appropriate to the situation. For example, if a child is about to run in front of a car, and the only thing you can do is pull their arm to prevent them from being knocked over, this force is reasonable. However, the same amount of force may not be reasonable in other incidents.

Staff should never give the impression of acting out of anger or frustration or to punish a child and should make it clear that physical contact or restraint will stop as soon as it ceases to be necessary.

Recording incidents

In all incidents where physical restraint has been used, the following actions must be taken:

- The manager/owner must be informed as soon as possible.
- The manager/owner is responsible for ensuring parents are informed as soon as possible
- Staff involved must complete a written record as soon as possible and always within 12 hours of incident taking place

Individual behaviour plan

It may become necessary to write a behaviour plan for child if we are having to physically intervene with a child on a regular basis. The plan will include details on:

- What the behaviour looks like
- When and why it occurs
- What can be done to prevent it
- What physical interventions may be used when it occurs

Any strategies and de-fusing techniques most likely to help should be agreed with parents/carers and communicated to all staff who work with the child. (This must be reviewed every half term)

Health & safety

The young person's health and safety must always be considered first and monitored. Any restraint must be ceased immediately if significant signs of physical distress are seen. i.e sudden changes in colour, difficulties in breathing, vomiting.

Staff are not under a duty to run the risk of personal injury, by intervening where it is not safe to do so. If the situation is assessed as being too dangerous, staff should remove other children, retire to a safe distance, and call for another member of staff to help.

If a child and his/her parents/carers wish to make a complaint about physical restraint used by a member of staff or other authorised person, they will complain to the manager/owner In the first instance. The incident will then be investigated under the relevant disciplinary procedure.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Child's Play Pre-School

name of setting

Held on (date)

19/04/23

Signed on behalf of the Proprietor

Role of signatory

This policy was reviewed on

(date)