

23: Behaviour Policy

Our club recognises the importance of positive and effective behaviour management strategies in promoting children's welfare, learning and enjoyment. The attitude and behaviour of all those who work or have contact with children in the club must be characterised by warmth, respect and encouragement towards each child and their parent/carers.

The aims of our Behaviour Management policy are to help children to:

- Develop a sense of caring and respect for one another.
- Encourage co-operative relationships with other children and adults.
- Encourage the development of social skills and help children learn what constitutes acceptable behaviour.
- Develop confidence, self-discipline and self-esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement.

Staff encourage good behaviour consistently and positively, setting limits for children and supporting other team members by:

- Reinforcing 'good behaviour' by noticing and praising it
- Promoting positive behaviour in all children
- Challenging unacceptable behaviour
- Use distraction techniques to defuse a potentially explosive situation between children to ensure their safety.
- If necessary, discussing a child's behaviour with their parent/carer to ascertain if there are any underlying issues we may have missed.

Behaviour Management Strategies

The club, the Manager and the staff team will manage behaviour according to clear consistent and positive strategies. Parents/carers are encouraged to contribute to these strategies, raising any concerns or suggestions.

Behaviour management in the club will be structured around the following principles:

The Manager:

Acts to ensure the safety and welfare of the children in the setting
Allocates a member of staff to be with any child whose behaviour is giving cause for concern and offers support to agree an action plan

- Staff and children will work together to establish a clear set of 'ground rules' governing all behaviour in the club. These will be periodically reviewed so that new children have a say in how the rules of the club operate.

- There is a named staff member who is responsible for behaviour management issues who supports staff and assesses training and specialist advice if needed.
- The Club's 'ground rules' (See appendix A – T-Club-6 rules) will apply equally to all children and staff.
- Positive behaviour will be reinforced with praise and encouragement.
- Staff will make every effort to set a positive example by behaving in a friendly and tolerant manner themselves, promoting an atmosphere where children and adults respect and value one another.
- Depriving a child of refreshment or forcing a child to consume refreshment, teasing, humiliating and scape-goating, frightening or isolating a child (e.g. by 'Time Out') is also strictly forbidden.
- We have a policy of no shouting and of treating each child with fairness and respect.
- Staff will facilitate regular and open discussions with children about their behaviour. This will help them to understand the negative aspects of their behaviour as well as enable them to have their say and be helped to think through the causes and effects of their actions.
- Staff will work as a team by discussing incidents and resolving to act collectively and consistently.
- Children who experience bullying, racism or other unacceptable behaviour will be given the confidence to speak out.
- Activities will be varied, well planned and structured, so that children are not easily bored or distracted.
- Adults within the setting are expected to treat children and each other with respect, and follow the behaviour policy.
- If a staff member commits any acts of violence, abuse or any of the above on a child they will be dismissed and reported to the relevant authorities as detailed in our Staff Discipline and Grievance Policy.

Dealing with Negative Behaviour

Negative behaviour will be challenged in a calm but assertive manner. In the first instance, staff will try to re-direct children's energies by offering them alternative and positive opinions. Staff will be open in stating and explaining non-negotiable issues.

Staff will encourage and facilitate mediation between children to try to resolve conflicts by discussion and negotiation.

When confronted with negative behaviour, staff will be clear to distinguish between 'disengaged', 'disruptive' and 'unacceptable' behaviour.

‘Disengaged behaviour’ may indicate that a child is bored, unsettled or unhappy. With sensitive interventions, staff will often be able to re-engage a child-purposeful activity.

‘Disruptive behaviour’ describes a child whose behaviour prevents other children from enjoying themselves. Staff will collectively discuss incidents and agree on the best way to deal with them.

‘Unacceptable behaviour’ refers to non-negotiable actions and may include discriminatory remarks, violence, bullying or destruction of equipment. Staff will be clear that consequences will follow from such behaviour, including in the first instance, temporarily removing a child from the activity session.

When an incidence of negative behaviour occurs, staff will listen to the child or children concerned and hear their reasons for their actions. Staff will then explain to the child or children what was negative about their behaviour and that such actions have consequences for both themselves and for other people.

Staff will make every attempt to ensure that children understand what is being said to them. Children will always be given the opportunity to make amends for their behaviour and, unless it is judged inappropriate, be able to rejoin the activity.

In the event that unacceptable behaviour persists, more serious actions may have to be taken, in accordance with the Suspensions and Exclusions policy. At all times, children will have explained to them the potential consequences of their actions.

The Use of Physical Interventions

Definition: A physical act carried out with the purpose of influencing, modifying or preventing the actions of a child or young person. Physical intervention includes direct physical contact and actions affecting the movement of a child or young person.

In our setting this means physical Intervention is where there is direct contact between a carer and child by physically escorting a child in crisis to a safe space or needs to safeguard others in the immediate area who are at risk.

The safety of other children must not be put at risk. Therefore, staff will use physical interventions only as a last resort and only then if they have reasonable grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary to prevent a child from significantly injuring themselves or others or to prevent serious damage to property.

Staff and children are aware of the club’s behaviour policy expectations and staff discuss behaviour tools and resources at regular staff meetings such as Zones of Regulation used as a de-escalation tool.

Before any physical intervention is attempted, staff will have used all possible non-physical actions, such as dialogue and diversion, to deal with the behaviour. The child or children concerned will be warned verbally that physical intervention will be used if they do not stop.

A dialogue will be maintained with the child or children at all times, so that the member of staff can explain what they are doing and why they are doing it. Staff will make every effort to avoid the use of physical interventions if they are alone with the child or children.



Only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage should be applied. For example, by diverting the child or children by leading them away by a hand or an arm around their shoulders.

Staff will use physical intervention as an act of care and control and never punishment. Physical interventions will not be used purely to force a child to do what they have been told and when there is no immediate risk to people or property.

As soon as it is safe, the physical intervention should be gradually relaxed to allow the child or children to regain self-control.

Where a member of staff has had to intervene physically to restrain a child, the manager will be notified and the incident recorded in the Incident Record Book. The incident will be discussed with the parent/carer at the earliest possible opportunity.

If a staff member commits any act of violence or abuse towards a child at the club, serious disciplinary action will be implemented, according to the provisions of the Staff Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures Policy.

Appendix A

Our Behaviour Expectations

Have respect for yourself, other people, all property and belongings.

Always be kind to each other and share toys and games.

Please remember to walk indoors and talk quietly.

Play can be dangerous, check what's around you.

Your hands and feet should be kept to yourself. No fighting

Playworker's need to be in your sight.

Listen to others and follow instructions from adults immediately.

Always tell the truth and use nice words.

Your feelings are important, use the Zones of Regulation.

! I agree to follow these rules and any changes necessary to help keep my friends, Playworkers and visitors safe.

The children and the staff will review these rules regularly.