



Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy

Date reviewed: 15.09.2023

Policy statement

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.

As children develop, they learn boundaries, the difference between right and wrong, and to consider the views and feelings, 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 appoint a member of staff as our Behaviour Co-ordinator to oversee and advise the teams' responses to challenging behaviour.

Procedures

To manage children's behaviour in an appropriate way we will

- ensure that all new staff complete training on behaviour management such as *Understanding and Addressing Behaviour in the Early Years* (EduCare) or NoodleNow
- help staff to implement procedures from this policy in their everyday practice
- advise staff on how to address behaviour issues and how to access expert advice if needed

Stepped approach

Step 1

- Our named Behaviour Co-ordinator will be Kim Vernon (Acting Practice Manager)
- We will ensure that EYFS guidance relating to 'behaviour management' is incorporated into relevant policy and procedures.
- We will be knowledgeable about and apply the setting's procedures for Promoting Positive Behaviour.
- Unwanted behaviours are addressed using an agreed and consistently applied approach to deescalating situations
- Behaviours that result in concern for the child and/or others must be discussed by the Key Person, SENCO/Practice Manager. During the meeting, the key person must use their all-around knowledge of the child and family to share any known influencing factors such as a new baby in the family, child and/or parental illness, and underlying additional needs to help place the child's behaviour into context.
- Appropriate adjustments to practice must be agreed upon within the setting. If relevant, a risk assessment should be carried out.
- If the adjustments are successful and the unwanted behaviour does not reoccur, or cause concern then normal monitoring can resume.

Step 2

- If the behaviour remains a concern, then the key person and SENCO must liaise with the parents to try to discover possible reasons for the behaviour and to agree on next steps. If relevant and appropriate the views of the child must be sought and considered to help identify a cause.

- If a cause for the behaviour is not known or only occurs whilst in the setting, then the setting manager/SENCO must suggest using a focused intervention approach to identifying a trigger for the behaviour such as the ABC approach, i.e., Antecedents – what happened before; Behaviour – what was the behaviour observed; Consequences – what happened after the event.
- If a trigger is identified, then the SENCO and key person must meet with the parents to plan support for the child through a graduated approach via SEN support.
- Aggressive behaviour by children towards other children will result in a staff member intervening immediately to stop the behaviour and prevent escalation using the agreed initial intervention approach. If the behaviour has been significant or may have a detrimental effect on the child, the parents of the victim of the behaviour and the parents of the perpetrator must be informed. If the setting has applied a physical intervention, they must follow the guidance as set out below. The designated person completes the Safeguarding Incident Reporting Form and contacts Ofsted if appropriate. A record of discussions is recorded, and parents are asked to sign.
- Parents must also be asked to sign risk assessments where the risk assessment relates to managing the behaviour of a specific child.
- If relevant, actions for dealing with the behaviour at home are agreed with parents and incorporated into the action plan. Other staff are informed of the agreed interventions and help implement the actions. The plan must be monitored and reviewed regularly by the key person/SENCO until improvement is noticed.
- Incidents and interventions relating to unwanted/challenging behaviour by children must be clearly and appropriately logged on SEN Support - Positive Behaviour Action plan.

Step 3

- If, despite applying the initial intervention and focused intervention approaches, the behaviour continues to occur and/or is of significant concern, then the Behaviour Co-ordinator and SENCO will invite the parents/carers to a meeting to discuss the external referral and next steps for supporting the child in the setting.
- It may be agreed that the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or Early Help process should begin, and that specialist help be sought for the child – this support may address either developmental or welfare needs. If the child's behaviour is part of a range of welfare concerns that also include a concern that the child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, follow the Safeguarding and Children and Child Protection Policy. It may also be agreed that the child should be referred to an Education, Health Care assessment (see Supporting Children with SEN policy).
- Advice provided by external agencies should be incorporated onto the child's action plan and regular multi-disciplinary meetings held to review the child's progress.

Initial intervention approach

- We use an initial problem-solving intervention for all situations in which a child or children are distressed on/in conflict. All staff use 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, and restating the issue to help children reflect, regain control of the situation, and resolve the situation themselves.
- High Scope's Conflict Resolution process provides this type of approach but equally any other similar method would be suitable. Periodically the effectiveness of the approach will be checked.

Focused intervention approach

- The reasons for some types of behaviour are not always apparent, despite the knowledge and input from key staff and parents/carers.
- Where we have considered all possible reasons, then a focused intervention approach should then be applied.

- This approach allows the Practice Manager and Behaviour Co-ordinator to observe, reflect and identify causes and functions of unwanted behaviour in the wider context of other known influences on the child.
- We follow the ABC method which uses key observations to identify a) an event activity (antecedent) that occurred immediately before a particular behaviour, b) what behaviour was observed and recorded at the time of the incident, and c) what the consequences were following the behaviour. Once analysed, the focused intervention should help determine the cause (e.g., ownership of a toy or fear of a situation) and function of the behaviour (to obtain the toy or avoid a situation) and suitable support will be applied.

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 excessive praise may provide an immediate change in the behaviour but will not teach the children how to act when a 'prize' is not given or provide the child with skills to manage situations and their emotions. Instead, a child is taught how to be 'compliant' and respond to meet the adult's own expectations, to obtain a reward (or for fear of a sanction). If used the type of rewards and their functions must be carefully considered before applying.
- Children should never be labelled, criticised, humiliated, punished, shouted at, or isolated by removing them from the group and left alone on 'timeout'. However, if 'necessary' children can be accompanied and removed from the group to calm down and if appropriate helped to reflect on what has happened.

Use of physical intervention

- Staff will already use different elements of physical contact with a child as part of their interaction in the setting especially when they are comforting a child or giving first aid. However, physical intervention to keep a child or other children safe is different and should only be applied in exceptional circumstances.
- The EYFS states that physical intervention from a staff member towards a child may be used for the purposes of "averting the immediate danger of personal injury to any person (including the child) or to manage a child's behaviour if it is absolutely necessary".
- Staff must do all they can to avoid using a physical intervention because this is not the preferred way of addressing children's behaviour.
- To offer protection to children a range of appropriate graded interventions may be needed before physical intervention is applied. Most single incidents such as a child throwing a book on the floor or kicking a chair usually only require a verbal intervention from a member of staff. In other situations, an intervention can be applied through mechanical and environmental means such as locking doors and stair gates. This usually stops a situation from escalating. However, there will be some situations where a child places themselves or others in danger which requires an immediate need for the use of both verbal and physical intervention. If a single or persistent incident requires a physical intervention such as physical handling from a staff member towards a child, then this is used intentionally to restrict a child's movement against their will. In most cases, this can be applied using the adult's body gently and safely blocking the child from access to danger or preventing danger.
- To physically intervene, a practitioner may use "reasonable force" to protect a child from injuring themselves or others. Legally a practitioner may also use reasonable force to prevent a child from damaging property. However, we would expect that in instances of damaging physical property a child would only experience a physical intervention if the broken property presented a risk or is of high value.
- If a situation arises which requires urgent physical hands-on intervention this is best applied by the staff who knows the child well such as their key person who is more able to calm them or use other known methods for defusing situations without physical intervention.

Physical handling

We use the principle of applying reasonable minimal force and handling in proportion to the situation. Staff use as little force as necessary to maintain safety. This intervention should only be used for as short a period as possible to keep the child safe and maintain well-being by aiming for:

- keeping the child's safety and well-being paramount
- a calm, gentle but firm approach and application of the intervention
- never restricting the child's ability to breathe
- side-by-side contact with the child
- no gap between theirs or the child's body
- keeping the adults back as straight as possible
- avoiding close head-to-head positioning to avoid injury to the child and themselves (head butting)
- only holding the child by their 'long' bones to avoid grasping at the child's joints where pain and damage are most likely to occur
- avoiding lifting the child unless necessary
- reassuring the child and talking about what has happened
- only applying a physical intervention on a disabled child if training or a preferred method is provided by a reputable external source e.g. British Institute of Learning Disabilities www.bild.org.uk/

Risks

There are risks associated with any physical intervention and handling of a child. The younger and more vulnerable a child may be, the greater risk to the child of using physical intervention towards them.

However, there are also risks to children associated with not intervening physically; for instance, if a practitioner did not take hold of a child by the wrist, they may have run into the path of a fast-moving car.

Before intervening physically to protect a child from immediate harm a practitioner needs to decision make in a split second, considering the following factors. This is described as a dynamic risk assessment.

- What is the immediate risk to this child if I do not intervene now?
- What might the risks be if I do intervene? If this was my child, what would I want someone looking after them to do in this situation?
- What is the minimum level of intervention that will be effective here? How can I do this as gently as possible for as short a time as possible and how am I going to manage myself to stay calm?

Recording

Any instance of physical intervention is fully recorded immediately and reported to the designated person as soon as possible on the Safeguarding incident reporting form, ensuring that it is clearly stated when and how parents were informed. Parents are asked to sign a copy of the form which is then kept on the child's file. The designated person decides who will notify the parent and when ensuring that the parent signs to say they have been notified. An individual risk assessment should be completed after any physical intervention with a child which considers the risks and likelihood of such behaviour re-occurring and how this will be managed. The risk assessment should be agreed upon and signed by parents.

The temporary suspension (fixed term)

Any decision to temporarily suspend a child must be carefully considered lawful, reasonable, and fair. If despite following the stepped approach for behaviour it is necessary to temporarily suspend a child, for no more than five days, on the grounds of health and safety, the following steps are followed.

- The setting manager provides a written request to suspend a child to the Management Committee; the request must detail the reason why the child must be suspended and the length of time of the proposed suspension.
- If the Management Committee approves, the parents must be invited to a meeting to discuss the next steps. Parents are invited to bring a representative along. Notes must be taken at the meeting and shared later with the parents. The meeting must aim for a positive outcome for the child and not to suspend.
- If no acceptable alternative to suspension is found then the setting manager must give both verbal and written notice of time-related suspension to the parent, meanwhile, the setting manager must ensure that continued resolution is sought, and suitable adjustments are in place for the child's return.

Suspension of a disabled child

We have a statutory duty not to discriminate against a child based on a protected characteristic. This includes suspending a child based on a disability. Ignorance of the law or claiming it was unknown that a child was disabled is no defence. However, if the child's behaviour places themselves or others at risk then the setting must take action to avoid further harm. Time-limited suspension may be applied to keep the child and/or others safe whilst finding a solution. Suspension is only used if reasonable steps and planned adjustments are first used to help resolve the situation. Without this action, the suspension of a child with SEND may constitute disability discrimination (Equality Act 2010). A decision to suspend a disabled child must be clearly evidenced, specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and targeted. Plans and interventions must be recorded on the child's file and SEN Support - Action plan. If little or no progress is made during the suspension period, the following steps are taken.

- The setting manager sends a written/electronic invite to the parents, a local authority representative and any relevant external agencies to attend a review meeting. Each attendee must be made aware that the meeting is to avoid the situation escalating further and to find a positive solution.
- After the meeting the setting manager continues to maintain weekly contact with the parents and local authority to seek a solution.
- Suitable arrangements offer the parent continued support and advice during the suspension. The setting manager reviews the situation fortnightly and provides their line manager with a monthly update.

Expulsion

In some exceptional circumstances, a child may be expelled due to:

- if despite applying a range of interventions (including reasonable adjustments), the setting has been unable to adequately meet the child's needs or cannot protect the health, safety, and well-being of the child and/or others.

Challenging unwanted behaviour from adults in the setting

- Settings will not tolerate behaviour from an adult which demonstrates a dislike, prejudice and/or discriminatory attitude or actions towards any individual or group. This includes negativity towards groups and individuals living outside the UK (Xenophobia). This also applies to the same behaviour if directed towards specific groups of people and individuals who are British Citizens residing in the UK.
- Allegations of discriminatory remarks or behaviour including xenophobia made in the setting made by any adult will be taken seriously. The perpetrator will be asked to stop the behaviour and failure to do so may result in

the adult being asked to leave the premises and in the case of a staff member, disciplinary measures being taken.

- Where a parent makes discriminatory or prejudiced remarks to staff at any time, or other people while on the premises, this is recorded on the child's file and reported to The Practice Manager. The procedure is explained, and the parent is asked to comply while on the premises. An 'escalatory' approach will be taken with those who continue to exhibit this behaviour. The second stage comprises a letter to the parent requesting them to sign a written agreement not to make discriminatory remarks or behave in a discriminatory or prejudiced manner, the third may be considering withdrawing the child's place.

This policy was reviewed by Hanslope Pre-school on 15th September 2023

Date to be reviewed 15th September 2024

Signed on behalf of Hanslope Pre-school

B. Mudaliar

By Brittany Mudaliar Chairperson on 29/09/2023