



Behaviour management policy

- **Policy statement**
- Our setting believes that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met and where there are clear and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour.
- Children need to learn to consider the views and feelings, needs and rights of others and the impact that their behaviour has on people, places and objects. This is a developmental task that requires support, encouragement, teaching and setting the correct example. The principles that underpin how we achieve positive and considerate behaviour exist within the programme for promoting personal, social and emotional development.
- **Procedures**
- We have a named person who has overall responsibility for our programme for supporting personal, social and emotional development, including issues concerning behaviour.
- We require the named person Rakia Khatoon to:
- keep her/himself up-to-date with legislation, research and thinking on promoting positive behaviour and on handling children's behaviour where it may require additional support;
- Access relevant sources of expertise on promoting positive behaviour within the programme for supporting personal, social and emotional development ; and

- Check that all staff have relevant in-house training on promoting positive behaviour. We keep a record of staff attendance at this training.
- We recognise that codes for interacting with other people vary between cultures and require staff to be aware of and respect.
- We require all staff, volunteers and students to provide a positive model of behaviour by treating children, parents and one another with friendliness, care and courtesy.
- We familiarise new staff and volunteers with the setting's behaviour policy and it's guidelines for behaviour.
- We expect all members of our setting - children, parents, staff, volunteers and students - to keep to the guidelines, requiring these to be applied consistently.
- We work in partnership with children's parents. Parents are regularly informed about their children's behaviour by their key person. We work with parents to address recurring inconsiderate behaviour, using our observation records to help us to understand the cause and to decide jointly how to respond appropriately. We work in partnership to improve behaviour.

- **Strategies with children who engage in inconsiderate behaviour**

- We require all staff, volunteers and students to use positive strategies for handling any inconsiderate behaviour, by helping children find solutions in ways which are appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development. Such solutions might include, for example, acknowledgement of feelings, explanation as to what was not acceptable and supporting children to gain control of their feelings so that they can learn a more appropriate response.
- We ensure that there are enough popular toys, resources and sufficient activities available so that children are meaningfully occupied without the need for unnecessary conflict over sharing and waiting for turns.
- We acknowledge considerate behaviour such as kindness and willingness to share.
- We support each child in developing self-esteem, confidence and feelings of competence.
- We support each child in developing a sense of belonging in our group, so that they feel valued and welcome.
- We avoid creating situations in which children receive adult attention only in return for inconsiderate behaviour.
- When children behave in inconsiderate ways, we help them to understand the outcomes of their action and support them in learning to cope more appropriately.
- We never send children out of the room by themselves, nor do we use a 'naughty chair' or a 'time out' strategy that excludes children from the group.
- We never use physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking. Children are never threatened with these.
- We do not use techniques intended to single out and humiliate individual children.
- We use physical restraint, such as holding, only to prevent physical injury to children or adults.

- Details of such an event (what happened, what action was taken and by whom, and the names of witnesses) are brought to the attention of our setting manager and are recorded in the child's personal file. The child's parent is informed on the same day.
- In cases of serious misbehaviour, such as racial or other abuse, we make clear immediately the unacceptability of the behaviour and attitudes, by means of explanations rather than personal blame.
- We do not shout or raise our voices in a threatening way to respond to children's inconsiderate behaviour.

The following behaviour is totally unacceptable:

- Physical or verbal abuse of staff
- Deliberate hurting of other children
- Deliberate misuse of equipment
- Refusal to do as asked by staff
- Persistent tantrums
- Persistent low level bad/disruptive behaviour
- If a child behaves in one of the above ways, the procedure that is followed is outlined in our Behaviour and Discipline leaflet.

- **Children under three years**

- When children under three behave in inconsiderate ways we recognise that strategies for supporting them will need to be developmentally appropriate and differ from those for older children.
- We recognise that babies and very young children are unable to regulate their own emotions, such as fear, anger or distress, and require sensitive adults to help them do this.
- Common inconsiderate or hurtful behaviour of young children include tantrums, biting or fighting. Staff are calm and patient, offering comfort to intense emotions,

helping children to manage their feelings and talk about them to help resolve issues and promote understanding.

- If tantrums, biting or fighting are frequent, we try to find out the underlying cause - such as a change or upheaval at home, or frequent change of carers. Sometimes a child has not settled in well and the behaviour may be the result of 'separation anxiety'.
- We focus on ensuring a child's attachment figure (their key person in the setting) is building a strong relationship to provide security to the child.

- **Rough and tumble play, hurtful behaviour and bullying**
- Our procedure has been updated to provide additional focus on these kinds of inconsiderate behaviours.

- **Rough and tumble play and fantasy aggression**
- Young children often engage in play that has aggressive themes – such as superhero and weapon play; some children appear pre-occupied with these themes, but their behaviour is not necessarily a precursor to hurtful behaviour or bullying, although it may be inconsiderate at times and may need addressing using strategies as above.

- We recognise that teasing and rough and tumble play are normal for young children and acceptable within limits. We regard these kinds of play as pro-social and not as problematic or aggressive.
- We will develop strategies to contain play that are agreed with the children, and understood by them, with acceptable behavioural boundaries to ensure children are not hurt.
- We recognise that fantasy play also contains many violently dramatic strategies, such as, blowing up, shooting etc., and that themes often refer to 'goodies and

baddies' and as such offer opportunities for us to explore concepts of right and wrong.

- We are able to tune in to the content of the play, perhaps to suggest alternative strategies for heroes and heroines, making the most of 'teachable moments' to encourage empathy and lateral thinking to explore alternative scenarios and strategies for conflict resolution.
- **Hurtful behaviour**
- We take hurtful behaviour very seriously. Most children under the age of five will at some stage hurt or say something hurtful to another child, especially if their emotions are high at the time, but it is not helpful to label this behaviour as 'bullying'. For children under five, hurtful behaviour is momentary, spontaneous and often without cognisance of the feelings of the person whom they have hurt.
- We recognise that young children behave in hurtful ways towards others because they have not yet developed the means to manage intense feelings that sometimes overwhelm them.
- We do not engage in punitive responses to a young child's rage as that will have the opposite effect.
- Our way of responding to pre-verbal children is to calm them through holding and cuddling. Verbal children will also respond to cuddling to calm them down, but we offer them an explanation and discuss the incident with them to their level of understanding.
- We recognise that young children require help in understanding the range of feelings they experience. We help children recognise their feelings by naming them and helping children to express them, making a connection verbally between the event and the feeling. "Adam took your car, didn't he, and you were enjoying playing with it. You didn't like it when he took it, did you? Did it

make you feel angry? Is that why you hit him?” Older children will be able to verbalise their feelings better, talking through themselves the feelings that motivated the behaviour.

- We help young children learn to empathise with others, understanding that they have feelings too and that their actions impact on others’ feelings. “When you hit Adam, it hurt him and he didn’t like that and it made him cry.”
- We help young children develop pro-social behaviour, such as resolving conflict over who has the toy: “I can see you are feeling better now and Adam isn’t crying any more. Let’s see if we can be friends and find another car, so you can both play with one.”
- We are aware that the same problem may happen over and over before skills such as sharing and turn-taking develop. In order for both the biological maturation and cognitive development to take place, children will need repeated experiences with problem solving, supported by patient adults and clear boundaries.
- We support social skills through modelling behaviour, activities, drama and stories. We build self-esteem and confidence in children, recognising their emotional needs through close and committed relationships with them.
- We help a child to understand the effect that their hurtful behaviour has on another child; we do not force children to say sorry, but encourage this where it is clear that they are genuinely sorry and wish to show this to the person they have hurt.
- When hurtful behaviour becomes problematic, we work with parents to identify the cause and find a solution together. The main reasons for very young children to engage in excessive hurtful behaviour are that:
- They do not feel securely attached to someone who can interpret and meet their needs – this may be in the home and it may also be in the setting;

- Their parent, or carer in the setting, does not have skills in responding appropriately, and consequently negative patterns are developing where hurtful behaviour is the only response the child has to express feelings of anger;
- The child may have insufficient language, or mastery of English, to express him or herself and may feel frustrated;
- The child is exposed to levels of aggressive behaviour at home and may be at risk emotionally, or may be experiencing child abuse;
- The child has a developmental condition that affects how they behave.
- Where this does not work, we use the Code of Practice to support the child and family, making the appropriate referrals to a Behaviour Support Team where necessary.

- **Bullying**

- We take bullying very seriously. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable in the centre. If bullying does occur all children are able to tell an adult, and the matter is dealt with smoothly and swiftly.

- Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person.
- Bullying results in pain and distress.
- Forms of bullying can be:

- Emotional- Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
- Physical- Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, pulling hair or any use of violence
- Racist- Racial taunts, gestures
- Verbal- Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

- **Signs and symptoms of bullying:**

- Is frightened and refusing to attend nursery
- Feels unwell

- Starts bullying other children or siblings
- Starts to have accidents, i.e. wetting themselves
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable.

- **Procedures**

- Incidents of bullying are reported to a member of staff
- The child is told it is not nice to bully by their key person
- Golden rules are reinforced
- Manager/Senior manager speaks to the child's parents/carers
- A record is made of the incident

- **The Bullied Child**

- We show the children who have been bullied that we are able to listen to their concerns and act upon them;
- We give reassurance to the child or children who have been bullied;

- **The Child Bullying**

- We explain to the child doing the bullying why her/his behaviour is unacceptable;
- We help the child who has done the bullying to recognise the impact of their actions;
- We make sure that children who bully receive positive feedback for considerate behaviour and are given opportunities to practise and reflect on considerate behaviour;
- We recognise that children who bully may be experiencing bullying themselves, or be subject to abuse or other circumstance causing them to express their anger in negative ways towards others;

This policy was adopted at a Downside Children's Pre-school held

on _____

Signed on behalf of Downside Pre-school

by: _____
