

BUCKDEN PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Physical handling Guidance Document

Introduction

We recognise that there are three main types of physical handling:

- *Positive handling* - the positive use of touch is a normal part of human interaction.

Touch is appropriate in a range of situations:

- Giving guidance to children i.e. how to hold a paintbrush
- Providing emotional support i.e. cuddling a child who is distressed
- Physical care i.e. first aid or toileting

Our staff exercise appropriate care when using positive handling (please refer to our policies on intimate care and safeguarding children)

- *Physical intervention* – this can include mechanical and environmental means such as stair gates or locked doors, which are appropriate means of ensuring a child's safety.
- *Restrictive physical intervention* – the use of physical force intentionally to restrict a child's movements against his or her will.

Restrictive physical intervention is only used in extreme circumstances, to prevent a child from physically harming themselves or others, or from significantly damaging equipment and/ or property. It may also be used if a child is trying to leave the setting unaccompanied.

We believe 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, and modelling 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.

We aim to help children to take responsibility for their behaviour, through a combination of approaches including:

- Positive role modelling
- Planning a range of interesting and challenging activities
- Setting and enforcing appropriate boundaries, rules and expectations
- Providing positive feedback

Our 'Achieving positive behaviour' policy gives greater detail on the strategies we use.

We acknowledge that there may be times when a child's behaviour presents challenges that may require physical handling and in particular restrictive physical intervention.

Restrictive physical intervention will only be used when staff believe that its use is in the child's best interests: their needs are paramount. When children are in danger of hurting themselves, or others, or of causing significant damage to equipment/property, staff have a responsibility to intervene.

When restrictive physical intervention is used, it is used within the principle of reasonable minimal force in proportion to the circumstances.

- Staff have a responsibility to intervene and will only use restrictive physical intervention to restore safety when children are in danger of hurting themselves, others or of causing significant damage.
- Restrictive physical intervention will only be used when staff believe that its use is in the child's best interest: their needs are paramount.
- Staff will use the minimum amount of force necessary and for as short a period as possible.
- Any member of staff can use restrictive physical intervention, particularly in an emergency.
- Ideally it is better if it is done by a member of staff who knows the child well, as this is the person most likely to be able to use other methods to support the child and keep them safe without using restrictive physical intervention.
- In using physical intervention staff will:
 - Aim for side by side contact with the child
 - Aim for no gap between the adult's body and the child's body
 - Hold children by 'long' bones and avoid holding joints where pain and damage are most likely
 - Ensure there is no restriction in the child's ability to breathe
 - Avoid lifting children

- It may be necessary for staff to receive specific training in the use of restrictive physical intervention.

Recording, reporting and reviewing

- After the use of restrictive physical intervention the details of the incident are noted on an incident form and shared with the child's parents/ carers at the earliest opportunity. If necessary they may also be noted on an ABC chart detailing the antecedent, behaviour and consequences surrounding the child's actions.
- These incident forms and ABC charts are reviewed to discern if there is a pattern to the child's behaviour and, if necessary, to formulate a behaviour care plan.
- The behaviour care plan will be shared with the child's parents/ carers and reviewed on a regular basis.
- If the behaviour care plan includes the use of restrictive physical intervention it will be just one part of the whole approach to supporting the child's behaviour.
- We will seek the advice and support from the Area Support for Learning Team.

Complaints

Where anyone (child, parent, carer, staff member or visitor) has any concerns, this will be dealt with following the procedures set out in our complaints policy and procedures.

Legal framework

- The Children Act 1989
- The Childcare Act 2006
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- UN Convention on the rights of the child
- Health and Safety at work Act 1974

Further guidance

- Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board Procedures Manual