



## Shout Out! Behaviour Management Policy

*'Adults caring for children in the setting are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way that promotes their welfare and development' – Ofsted.*

### Aims

To provide a structure for positive behaviour management within the setting. To provide flexibility in the responses of staff to children's behaviour. To provide a supportive framework for children and staff to manage behavioural issues.

### Information

Inappropriate behaviour refers to non-negotiable actions and may include discriminatory remarks, harm to self or others, bullying or destruction of equipment.

It is important to consider the reasons why children might present certain types of behaviour; boredom, feeling unsettled or unhappy, not feeling listened to, an unstimulating play setting, and medical reasons for example.

### Principles

Below are 3 principles that support positive behaviour management:

1. 'The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.'
2. 'Playworkers recognise their own impact on the playspace and also the impact of children and young people's play on the playworker.'
3. 'Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All playworker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and well being of children.'



## Policy

- Staff and children will work together to develop and maintain a clear set of ground rules governing all behaviour in the setting.
- Ground rules will be written in a positive manner ('we will....'), detail expected behaviour and will apply equally to staff and children.
- Play opportunities will be varied and well planned so that children are engaged and interested.
- Staff will take active steps to not label children (ie. difficult, naughty) and to consider the underlying reasons for behaviour. Staff will work as a team by discussing incidents and resolving to act collectively and consistently.
- Staff will ensure that the individual child feels valued and respected at all times.
- Staff will take positive steps to avoid a situation in which children receive attention for undesirable behaviour.
- Staff will encourage children to express their strong feelings without physical or verbal aggression. (Eg by shouting outside, talking to a playworker, exercise).
- Staff will support children to manage behaviour themselves and develop the life skills needed to deal with their emotions and feelings.



- Staff will praise positive behaviours, feedback to parents and develop a recognition scheme if chosen (eg a kindness tree, certificates).
- A named member of staff will be responsible for Behaviour Management.

**In situations that require adult intervention**, facilitators will consider the most appropriate response depending on what led up to the behaviour, the type of behaviour, age and level of understanding of the child. This may be;

- To re-engage the child in play, have a chat or divert their attention.
- To listen to the child or children and hear their reasons for their actions.
- To discuss with the child what is inappropriate about their behaviour and what the consequence may be. The playworker will judge the best time to have this conversation depending on the child's level of distress and ability to engage (This may happen at the time or later if the child is distressed and unable to listen to what you say.)
- To support the children to resolve conflicts themselves.
- To link behaviour back to the ground rules.
- To give the child an opportunity to make amends for their behaviour and, unless it is deemed inappropriate, to rejoin any activity.
- To give clear expectations and boundaries of behaviour.
- To give the child a short period of time to think to enable them to calm down and reflect on their behaviour. The playworker and child can assess together if the child feels calm enough to rejoin the group.

Once dealt with, staff will not discuss the behaviour again with the child. If it is necessary to talk to parents/ carers about behaviour issues, the playworker will encourage the child to tell the parent themselves with

their support and be positive about behaviours the child has been helped to sort out and manage themselves.

## **Consequences**

- Expression of disapproval
- Discussion of the incident
- Reparation
- Time to think
- Missing out on an activity if the behaviour is serious or unsafe for example.
- Parental involvement

## **Physical Intervention procedure**

As a setting, we will consider the age of children that we work with and what appropriate approaches are regarding physical intervention.

Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort if all other strategies detailed in this policy have not been successful and only if there are 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. E.g. a child running across the road; a child being physically aggressive towards themselves or others whilst upset.

Staff will first consider distraction, withdrawing adults and children and making the environment safe.

Physical Intervention will be used for the minimum amount of time and with the minimum amount of force.

Staff will consider the emotional impact of physical intervention on the child, witnesses and staff and debrief afterwards as appropriate.

## **Recurring inappropriate behaviour**



Where inappropriate behaviour is ongoing, the above interventions have not been successful or an emergency situation is reached, actions that staff will consider are:

- Calling parent/ carers to pick up the child.
- Suspension from the scheme for a short period of time.
- Staff writing a Behaviour Management Plan specific to the child and in liaison with the child and parent. The plan will be signed and agreed with the child and parents and monitored and evaluated regularly.
- Staff attending Challenging Behaviour Training Course.
- Contacting outside professionals for support and information including SENCO.
- Exclusion from the scheme.

## **Recording**

Behaviour Management issues will be recorded on an Incident Record. The record will be written in a non-judgemental manner, be confidential, accurate and signed by parents. If physical intervention has been used, an Incident Record must be completed in detail and the parent/carer needs to be informed on the same day.

Staff will ensure it also covers any observed triggers; others involved; witnesses; type of physical intervention used, for how long and to what force; consequences. Any injuries obtained by children or staff as a result of physical intervention will also be recorded in the Accident Book.