

05 Equality procedures

05.2 Promoting positive behaviour

Rationale

We believe that children flourish best, when they know how they are expected to behave and should be free to play and learn without fear of being hurt or unfairly restricted by someone else. We aim to provide an environment in which there is opportunity for acceptable behaviour by all and where children learn to respect themselves, other people and the environment. We believe that wanted behaviour can be promoted by the use of good practice and so we aim to provide a rich curriculum to keep children actively engaged. We also aim to provide opportunities for children to express themselves and to learn how to interpret feelings, by listening to the children and giving the necessary support that will validate, then enable them to verbalise their own feelings.

Watcombe Children's Centre Nursery does not condone either the use, of or the threatening of, any corporal punishment to a child by anyone. We do not believe that punishing children in any such form ever helps them to become self-disciplined.

Our aim is that we will work in partnership with parents; we will always talk to parents about children's behaviour in order to develop a consistent and mutually agreed approach to managing behavioural situations.

Watcombe Children's Centre Nursery believe in using an approach which helps to recognise and support children's emotional development, in relation to managing their own behaviour. This includes strategies to help children to have the positive experiences they need to develop emotional well-being.

Natasha Perry is the named practitioner responsible for behaviour management.

Challenging behaviour/aggression by children towards other children

Bullying is a behaviour that both parents and practitioners worry about. Bullying is a deliberate, aggressive and repeated action, which is carried out with intent to cause or distress to others. It requires the child to have "theory of mind" and a higher level of reasoning and thinking, all of which are complex skills that most pre-school age children have not yet developed (usually after the age of 4 years along with empathy). Therefore an outburst by a 3 year old is more likely to be a reflection of the child's emotional wellbeing, their stage of development or a behaviour that they have copied from someone else. In this scenario, supporting staff will work with the child/children on an individual basis to encourage empathy and kindness.

Strategies to manage behaviour:

As a setting we strive to ensure that a consistent approach to behaviour is adopted by setting clear boundaries, using appropriate resources to help/support children to take turns, being a positive role model and empowering children through providing opportunities to make appropriate choices. Staff use language that is developmentally appropriate for the child and allow children time to process instructions and to respond.

When needed, the strategies used to manage unwanted behaviour in the nursery will be ones that help to develop a child's ability to self-discipline and will always be developmentally appropriate. In summary, these strategies will be as follows:

1. Diversion
2. Warning
3. Time away

4. Validation

In situations where a child's unwanted behaviour is likely to cause injury or is deemed to warrant immediate action, no warning will be given but the child would be given an explanation as to why a time away from the situation has occurred.

Physical Intervention

Physical intervention will only be used in situations that are absolutely necessary. Any physical intervention that does need to take place, is carried out with minimum force and time. This will always be done in view of other adults and be discussed with parents where appropriate.

If a child needs to be physically contained to prevent injury to themselves or others, staff will use methods of positive holding and safe touch to allow the child to "digest" and manage their feelings.

Revised by Natasha Perry and Clare Chamberlain 09/04/2024

Policy adopted by Watcombe CIC on 18/07/2024