

Behaviour Policy

Policy Statement

All children and adults are treated with equal respect, and are made to feel welcome in our home. We aim to offer a quality childcare service for parents and children. There is of course the need to set out reasonable and appropriate limits to help manage the behaviour of children in our care.

By providing a happy, well-maintained environment, the children in our care will be encouraged to develop social skills to help them be accepted and welcome in society as they grow up.

We do not, and will not, administer physical punishment or any form of punishment with the intention of causing pain or discomfort, nor any kind of humiliating or hurtful treatment to any child in our care.

We do not have a “naughty step”, or “naughty corner”, but do, and can use the option to remove a child exhibiting unwanted behaviours away from the other children to other part of the house, to discuss their behaviour, and allow them time to consider their actions/behaviour.

We endorse positive discipline as a more effective way of setting limits for children.

Procedure

We keep up to date with behaviour management issues and relevant legislation by taking regular training and by reading relevant publications, such as *Who Minds?*

All parents receive a copy of this Behaviour Policy before commencement of care, along with all our other policies.

Wherever possible we try to meet parents’ requests for the care of their children according to their values and practices, unless there are any conflicts with accepted practice.

We expect parents to inform us of any changes in the child’s home circumstances, care arrangements or any other change which may affect the child’s behaviour such as a new baby, parents’ separation, divorce or any bereavement. All information shared will be kept confidential unless there appears to be a child protection issue.

If any parents wish to review the way that their child is cared for or discuss their children’s behaviour we can arrange for a meeting to review this in addition to regular informal chats.

We work together with parents to make sure there is consistency in the way the children are cared for. A consistent approach benefits the child’s welfare and makes sure that the child is not confused.

Policy reviewed on 20 May 2013 next review due May 2014 or sooner should legislation change.

We will physically intervene, and possibly restrain, a child to prevent an accident, such as a child running into the road, or to prevent an injury or damage.

Other circumstances where physical intervention could be needed is any instance where one child's actions is directly resulting in the endangerment or harm of other children within our care. In those circumstances we reserve the right to physically remove the child in question away from any other child in our care.

All significant incidents will be shared and discussed with the parents of the child concerned so that together we can work to resolve any behavioural issues.

From time to time children will have difficulty learning to deal with their emotions and feelings and this is a normal part of child development. We will acknowledge these feelings and try to help children to find constructive solutions in liaison with their parents.

Distracting and re-directing children's activities are used as a way of discouraging unwanted behaviour.

We encourage responsibility by talking to children about choices and possible consequences.

We aim to be firm and consistent so that children know and feel secure in the boundaries we set.

We will respond positively to children who constantly seek attention or are disruptive.

We will ensure children maintain their self esteem by showing we disapprove of the behaviour not the child.

We encourage appropriate behaviour by:

- Setting a good example, we aim to be a positive role model as children copy what they see. Children learn values and behaviour from adults.
- We give children choices so they can build risk assessment skills and understand the reason why they are told not to do some things, and to allow them to feel in control of their actions.
- We readily praise, approve and reward wanted behaviour, such as sharing, to encourage it to be repeated. Using praise helps to show that we value the child and it helps to build their self esteem.
- We praise children to their parents and other people when they have behaved as expected.

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- We try to be consistent when saying “no” and explain reasons why it is not appropriate and considered unwanted behaviour.
- Our expectations are flexible and realistic and are adjusted to the age, level of understanding, maturity and stage of development of the child.
- We try to involving children in setting and agreeing house rules, done through ‘circle time’.

If we have concerns about a child’s behaviour, which are not being resolved, we will ask for permission from the parents to talk it through with another childcare professional. We may contact either Hull City Council, The National Childminding Association, the NSPCC, health visitor or the local early years team (or other relevant advice service) for confidential advice.

Concerns that could identify a particular child are kept confidential and only shared with people who need to know this information.

Meeting the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The Framework states that ‘Children’s behaviour must be managed effectively and in a manner appropriate for their stage of development and particular individual needs’.