



## **Sheffield Hallam University Nurseries**

# **Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy**

Children flourish best when they know how they and others are expected to behave. Children gain respect through interaction with caring adults who act as good role models, show them respect and value their individual personalities. The nurseries actively promote British values and encourage and praise positive, caring and polite behaviour. We create an environment where children learn to respect themselves, other people and their surroundings.

Children need to have set boundaries of behaviour for their own safety and the safety of their peers. Within our nurseries we aim to set these boundaries in a way which helps the child to develop a sense of the significance of their own behaviour, both in their own environment and that of others around them. Restrictions on the child's natural desire to explore and develop their own ideas and concepts are kept to a minimum.

Methods of managing behaviour are positive and unobtrusive wherever possible. Children who behave inappropriately, for example, by physically abusing another child or adult e.g. biting, or through verbal bullying, are helped to talk through their actions and apologise where appropriate. We make sure that the child who has been upset is comforted and the adult will confirm that the other child's behaviour is not acceptable. We always acknowledge when a child is feeling angry or upset and that it is the behaviour that is not acceptable, not the child.

We aim to:

- Provide the best possible physical environment, experiences and behavioural environment for children.
- Continuously and sensitively review and adapt the physical environment, to provide the best outcomes for the children.
- Provide interesting activities, adapted to the children's age and stage, which will engage children to reduce boredom and behavioural problems.
- Continually ensure where possible there are sufficient resources which interest the children, at the time and place they want them.

- Keep calm, be positive and speak in a reassuring manner.
- Keep our own behaviours under continual review and modify them as necessary.
- Recognise the individuality of all our children and that some behaviours are typical in young children e.g. biting.
- Encourage self-discipline, consideration for each other, our surroundings and property.
- Encourage children to participate in a wide range of group activities to enable them to develop their social skills.
- Ensure that all staff act as positive role models for children.
- Encourage parents and other visitors to be positive role models
- Work in partnership with parents by communicating openly.
- Praise children and acknowledge their positive actions and attitudes, therefore ensuring that children see that we value and respect them.
- Encourage all staff working with children to accept their responsibility for implementing the goals in this policy and to be consistent.
- Promote and encourage children to deal with conflict peacefully.
- Provide a key person system enabling staff to build a strong and positive relationship with children and their families.
- Provide activities and stories to help children learn about accepted behaviours, including opportunities for children to contribute to decisions about accepted behaviour where age/stage appropriate.
- Support and develop self-regulation and empathy as appropriate to stage of development.

The management team will -

- Advise and support other staff on behaviour issues.
- Along with each key person will keep up to date with legislation and research relating to behaviour.
- Support changes to policies and procedures in the nursery.
- Access relevant sources of expertise where required and act as a central information source for all involved.
- Attend regular external training events, and ensure all staff attend relevant in-house or external training for behaviour management. Keep a record of staff attendance at this training.



Our nurseries rules are concerned with safety, care and respect for each other. We keep the rules to a minimum and ensure that these are age and stage appropriate. We regularly involve children in the process of setting rules to encourage cooperation and participation and ensure children gain understanding of the expectations of behaviour relevant to them as a unique child.

When children behave in unacceptable ways:

- We never use or threaten to use physical punishment/corporal punishment such as smacking or shaking.
- We recognise that there may be times where children may have regular occasions where they lose control and may need individual techniques to restrain them. In this case a dynamic risk assessment will be carried out and a judgement will be made if restraint is deemed to be reasonable, proportionate and necessary. Please refer to the Physical Restraint Policy.
- We do not single out children or humiliate them. Where children use unacceptable behaviour, they will, wherever possible, be re-directed to alternative activities. Discussions with children will take place as to why their behaviour was not acceptable, respecting their level of understanding and maturity.
- Staff will not raise their voices (other than to keep children safe).
- In any case of unacceptable behaviour, we always make it clear to the child or children in question, that it is the behaviour and not the child that is unwelcome.
- We decide how to handle a particular type of behaviour depending on the child's age, level of development and the circumstances surrounding the behaviour. This may involve asking the child to talk and think about what he/she has done. All staff support children in developing empathy and children will only be asked to apologise if they have developed strong empathy skills and have a good understanding of why saying sorry is appropriate.
- We help staff to reflect on their own responses towards challenging behaviours to ensure that their reactions are appropriate.
- We inform parents if their child's behaviour is unkind to others or if their child has been upset. In all cases we deal with inappropriate behaviour in nursery at the time.
- We support children in developing non-aggressive strategies to enable them to express their feelings.

- We keep confidential records on any inappropriate behaviour that has taken place. We inform parents and ask them to read and sign any incidents concerning their child.
- We support all children to develop positive behaviour, and we make every effort to provide for their individual needs.
- Through partnership with parents and formal observations, we make every effort to identify any behavioural concerns and the causes of that behaviour. From these observations and discussions, we will implement a plan for progress which will detail strengths, areas of concern and strategies to support the child's development. In some cases, we may request additional advice and support from other professionals.
- Where a child's behaviour involves physical actions towards other children and staff, for example hitting, kicking etc. The SENDCO will complete risk assessments identifying any potential triggers or warning signs always ensuring other children's and staff's safety. In these instances, we may remove a child from an area until they have calmed down.

### **Anti-bullying**

Bullying takes many forms. It can be physical, verbal or emotional, but it is always a repeated behaviour that makes other people feel uncomfortable or threatened. We acknowledge that any form of bullying is unacceptable and will be dealt with immediately while recognising that physical aggression is part of children's development in their early years.

We recognise that children need their own time and space and that it is not always appropriate to expect a child to share. We believe it is important to acknowledge each child's feelings and to help them understand how others might be feeling.

We encourage children to recognise that bullying, fighting, hurting and discriminatory comments are not acceptable behaviour. We want children to recognise that certain actions are right and that others are wrong.

At our nursery, staff follow the procedure below to enable them to deal with challenging behaviour:

- Staff are encouraged to ensure that all children feel safe, happy and secure.

- Staff are encouraged to recognise that active physical aggression in the early years is part of the child's development and that it should be channelled in a positive way.
- Children are helped to understand that using aggression to get things, is inappropriate and they will be encouraged to resolve problems in other ways.
- Our staff will intervene when they think a child is being bullied, however mild or harmless it may seem.
- Staff will initiate games and activities with children when they feel play has become aggressive, both indoors and out.
- Staff will sensitively discuss any instance of bullying with the parents of all involved to look for a consistent resolution to the behaviour.

If any parent has a concern about their child, a member of staff will be available to discuss those concerns. It is only through co-operation that we can ensure our children feel confident and secure in their environment, both at home and in the nursery. All concerns will be treated in the strictest confidence.

By positively promoting good behaviour, valuing co-operation and a caring attitude, we hope to ensure that children will develop as responsible members of society.

### **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 the 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.



This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
18/3/23	C.E.Carroll	January 2026