

MANAGING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR/AGGRESSION POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT OF INTENT

We at Wishing Well Family Centre believe that children and adults flourish best in an ordered environment in which everyone knows what is expected of them and children are free to develop their play and learning without fear of being hurt or hindered by anyone else. We set high expectations of behaviour through encouraging and praising good behaviour, we apply rules fairly and consistently. Under no circumstances do we use any form of punishment.

AIMS OF THE POLICY

We aim to provide a happy, caring environment in which children can develop self-discipline and self-esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement.

In order to achieve this:

- All staff in Wishing Well ensure that the rules are applied consistently, so that children have the security of knowing what to expect and can build up useful habits of behaviour.
- All staff will try to provide a positive role model for the children with regard to friendliness, care and courtesy.
- We set clear and consistent boundaries regarding behaviour taking into account the age and stage of development of the child.
- Agreed rules and boundaries are discussed with the children in their individual playrooms.
- Staff will praise and support desirable behaviour such as kindness and willingness to share.
- We take positive steps to avoid a situation in which children receive adult attention only in return for undesirable behaviour.
- We encourage responsibility such as helping to tidy up.
- Staff intervene and redirect, if necessary, to prevent disagreements developing that children cannot handle.
- Any incidents of unwanted behaviour/aggression are handled in a calm and controlled manner.
- Children are made aware of the need for goals and boundaries and specific expectations for their behaviour in ways appropriate to their level of understanding.
- Positive methods of guidance are used. We reward good behaviour and encourage respect for others.
- Physical punishments are never used (such as smacking or shaking) or threatened, nor are practices which humiliate or frighten children.

It is always made clear that it is the behaviour that is unwanted, not the child.

Introduced April 2010

Updated Oct 2020

Negative behaviour

Most children at certain stages of development will demonstrate behaviour that is negative. Children may demonstrate negative behaviour verbally or physically e.g. biting/ swearing. We recognise that children may display negative behaviour due to the fact that they are still exploring their emotions and the understanding of what is socially accepted.

When children behave in unacceptable/ negative ways the following should be adhered to at all times:

Acceptable methods for managing behaviour -

- Give children the chance to resolve their own disputes with appropriate guidance and support.
- Calm intervention.
- Encourage children to express/discuss their feelings.
- Reinforce boundaries
- Never humiliate or attack child's self.
- Divert child's attention.

Unacceptable methods for managing behaviour -

- Physical Punishment.
- Sending children out of the room.
- Using techniques that single out and humiliate individual children such as the "naughty chair" will not be used.
- Shouting or raising of voice in an inappropriate way.
- Techniques intended to single out and humiliate
- Physical restraint, e.g. holding, will not be used unless it is required to prevent injury to child or other children, adults or property. In cases where it is used the incident will be recorded and the parent/carer informed the same day.

If a child's behaviour is persistent and continues to disrupt the group or is dangerous, the child will be removed from the group to enable them to calm down in a quieter, more private setting. This will give staff the opportunity to talk to the child and to comfort them as appropriate. If the child continues to be disruptive the parent/carer will be contacted and asked to collect their child.

In the case of a particular incident or persistent unacceptable behaviour we always discuss ways forward with parents/carers. When we have exhausted all other options we will consider the place being withdrawn.

Bullying

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so they can play/learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. It is our policy to encourage positive behaviour. All staff, students, children and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is and what the centre policy is on bullying and how to report it. Children and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported. Bullying will not be tolerated.

Please refer to our **Anti-bullying policy**
Behaviour management procedure