



## Behaviour Management (Including Bullying)

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Kids Club Ely Ltd & St John's Preschool recognises the importance of positive and effective behaviour management strategies in promoting children's welfare, learning and enjoyment.

The aims of our Behaviour Management policy are to help children to:

- Develop a sense of caring and respect for one another
- Build caring and co-operative relationships with other children and adults
- Develop a range of social skills and help them learn what constitutes acceptable behaviour
- Develop confidence, self-discipline and self-esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement

### Behaviour Management Strategies

The setting, the Manager, and the staff will manage behaviour according to clear, consistent and positive strategies. Parents/carers are encouraged to contribute to these strategies, raising any concerns or suggestions.

Behaviour management in the setting will be structured around the following principles:

- Staff and children will work together to establish a clear set of 'ground rules' governing all behaviour in the setting. These will be periodically reviewed so that new children have a say in how the rules of the setting operate. Parents/carers will also have access to the Ground Rules to encourage unity and consistency
- The setting's 'ground rules' will apply equally to all children, staff and parents/carers
- The setting's 'ground rules' will be put on display in view of the children, staff and parents/carers
- Positive behaviour will be reinforced with praise and encouragement
- Inappropriate behaviour will be addressed in a calm but assertive manner. In the first instance, staff will try to re-direct children's energies by offering them alternative and positive options. Staff will be open in stating and explaining non-negotiable issues
- When dealing with challenging behaviour, staff will always communicate in a clear, calm and positive manner. For those children who need support in order to behave in an appropriate manner, staff will investigate strategies and offer consistent care whilst at the setting.
- Staff and parents/carers will make every effort to set a positive example to children by behaving in a friendly and tolerant manner themselves,

promoting an atmosphere where children and adults respect and value one another

- Staff and parent/carers will avoid shouting in the setting (at work)
- Staff will facilitate regular and open discussions with children about their behaviour. This will help them understand the inappropriate aspects of their behaviour and enable them to have their say and be helped to think through the causes and effects of their actions
- Staff will work as a team by discussing incidents and resolving to act collectively and consistently
- Staff will try to discuss concerns confidentially with parents/carers at the earliest possible opportunity in an attempt to help identify the causes of inappropriate behaviour and share strategies for dealing with it
- Children who experience bullying, racism or other unacceptable behaviour will be given the confidence to speak out
- Staff will encourage and facilitate mediation between children to try to resolve conflicts by discussion and negotiation
- The play space will be well resourced and planned to meet the needs of the children and young people and therefore offering a variety of play opportunities

### **Dealing with Inappropriate Behaviour**

When confronted with negative behaviour, staff will be clear about distinguishing between 'disengaged', 'disruptive' and 'unacceptable' behaviour.

'Disengaged' behaviour may indicate that a child is bored, unsettled or unhappy. With sensitive interventions, staff will often be able to re-engage a child in purposeful activity.

'Disruptive' behaviour describes a child whose behaviour prevents other children from enjoying themselves. Staff will collectively discuss incidents and agree on the best way to deal with them.

'Unacceptable' behaviour refers to non-negotiable actions and may include discriminatory remarks, violence, bullying or destruction of equipment. Staff will be clear that consequences will follow from such behaviour, including in the first instance, temporarily removing a child from the activity session.

When an incidence of inappropriate behaviour occurs, staff will listen to the child or children concerned and hear their reasons for their actions. Staff will then explain to the child or children what was unacceptable about their behaviour and that such actions have consequences for both themselves and for other people.

Staff will make every attempt to ensure that children understand what is being said to them. Children will always be given the opportunity to make amends for their behaviour and, unless it is judged inappropriate, be able to rejoin the activity. Consideration will be given to the child or young person's individual needs. Every effort will be made to communicate in the most appropriate manner in order to assist in an improvement in behaviours.

Children who need help in order to behave in an appropriate manner will be given support and consistent strategies to address the matter. Staff will seek appropriate training in order to reflect upon the triggers and effects for some children who find some aspects of the play environment stressful.

In the event that unacceptable behaviour persists, more serious actions may have to be taken, in accordance with the Suspensions and Exclusions policy. At all times children will have explained to them the potential consequences of their actions.

It is recognised that an incident of unacceptable behaviour is a stressful situation for staff and children alike. However, staff will be aware that there is also a need to be mindful of confidentiality and will only discuss such incidents on a 'need to know' basis. Where causes of incidents suggest possible abuse, child protection procedures will be followed.

### **The Use of Physical Interventions**

Physical intervention may be recognised as part of an individual care plan and training will be sought.

Staff will use physical interventions only as a last resort and only then if they have 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.

Before reaching this stage, staff will have used all possible non-physical actions, such as dialogue and diversion, to deal with the behaviour. The child or children concerned will be warned verbally that physical intervention will be used if they do not stop.

A dialogue will be maintained with the child or children at all times, so that the member of staff can explain what they are doing and why they are doing it. Staff will make every effort to avoid the use of physical interventions if they are alone with the child or children. Only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage should be applied. For example, by a guiding arm/ hand around their shoulders.

Staff will use physical intervention as an act of care and control and never punishment. Physical interventions will not be used purely to force a child to do what they have been told and when there is no immediate risk to people or property.

As soon as it is safe, the physical intervention should be gradually relaxed to allow the child or children to regain self control.

The force of the physical intervention will be always appropriate to the age, size and strength of the child or children involved.

If staff are not confident about their ability to contain a particular situation or type of behaviour, consideration will be given to calling the Manager or, in extreme cases, the police.

Where a member of staff has had to intervene physically to restrain a child, the Manager will be notified, and the incident recorded in the Incident Record Book. The incident will be discussed with the parent/carer at the earliest possible opportunity.

If a staff member commits any act of violence or abuse towards a child at the Club, serious disciplinary action will be implemented, according to the provisions of the Staff Disciplinary Procedures policy.

### **Charging**

Breakages and damages: Kids Club Ely / St Johns Preschool will require parents to pay for the cost of damage caused, to property or play equipment, by a child's inappropriate behaviour.



## Bullying

Kids Club Ely Ltd & St John's Preschool is committed to providing an environment for children and staff that is safe, welcoming and free from bullying. Bullying of any form is unacceptable in our setting, whether the offender is a child or an adult. The victim is never responsible for being the target of a bully.

Everyone involved in the setting, staff, children and parents/carers, will be made aware of the setting's stance on bullying. Such behaviour will not be tolerated or excused under any circumstances.

The setting defines bullying as the repeated harassment of others through emotional, physical, verbal or psychological abuse. Examples of such behaviour are as follows:

**Emotional:** Being deliberately unkind, shunning or excluding another person from a group or tormenting them. For example, forcing another person to be 'left out' of a game or activity, passing notes about others or making fun of another person.

**Physical:** Pushing, scratching, spitting, kicking, hitting, biting, talking or damaging belongings, tripping up, punching or using any other sort of violence against another person.

**Verbal:** Name-calling, put-downs, ridiculing or using words to attack, threaten or insult. For example, spreading rumours or making fun of another person's appearance.

**Psychological:** Behaviour likely to instil a sense of fear or anxiety in another person.

### Preventing Bullying Behaviour

The Manager and the staff will make every effort to create a tolerant and caring environment in the setting, where bullying behaviour is not acceptable. Staff will discuss the issues surrounding bullying openly, including why bullying behaviour will not be tolerated and what the consequences of bullying behaviour will be.

### Dealing with Bullying Behaviour

Despite all efforts to prevent it, bullying behaviour is likely to occur on occasion and the setting recognises this fact. In the event of such incidents, the following principles will govern the setting's responses:

- All incidents of bullying will be addressed thoroughly and sensitively

- Children will be encouraged to immediately report any incident of bullying that they witness. They will be reassured that what they say will be taken seriously and handled carefully
- Staff have a duty to inform the Manager if they witness an incident of bullying involving children or adults at the setting
- If a child or a member of staff tells someone that they are being bullied, they will be given the time to explain what has happened and reassured that they were right to tell
- The individual who has been the victim of bullying will be helped and supported by the staff team. They will be kept under close supervision and staff will check on their welfare regularly
- In most cases, bullying behaviour can be addressed according to the strategies set out in the Behaviour Management policy. The bully will be encouraged to discuss their behaviour and think through the consequences of their actions. Where appropriate, they will be encouraged to talk through the incident with the other person concerned
- A member of staff will inform the parents/carers of all the children involved in a bullying incident at the earliest possible opportunity. If appropriate, staff will facilitate a meeting between the relevant parents/carers. At all times, staff will handle such incidents with care and sensitivity.
- All incidents of bullying will be reported to the Manager and will be recorded in the Incident Record Book. In the light of reported incidents, the Manager and other relevant staff will review the setting's procedures in respect of bullying