

Little Ducklings Pre-School

Behaviour Policy

Issue 1

Behaviour Policy

Aims

At Little Ducklings Pre-School we aim to provide a safe, stimulating, caring environment where children and adults can work together happily and with confidence. We aim to affirm the children at all times, raising their self-esteem and sense of worth in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement. We aim to enable the children to develop an awareness of the needs and feelings of others, and to respect one another at all times. By showing the children that all behavioural choices have consequences, we will endeavour to teach them to have self-control and to begin to take responsibility for their own actions.

In order to achieve this:

- Everyone at Little Ducklings must aim to be caring, polite and considerate of the needs of others at all times.
- All adults in Little Ducklings will ensure that agreed procedures are applied consistently, so that children have the security of knowing what to expect and can build up useful habits of behaviour.
- Adults will praise and reward the children as often as possible, in order to reinforce good behaviour.
- Children will be encouraged to share, take turns and negotiate, according to their level of understanding and maturity.
- Children will be encouraged to take responsibility during the Pre-School session, for example, by choosing resources and equipment, helping to tidy up, looking after new children etc.
- Adults will help all children to understand the effects of their behaviour on others.
- Adults will reassure children that they are always valued as individuals even if their behaviour may be unacceptable.
- Where possible staff will use the 'Five to Thrive' model of respond, engage, relax, play and talk to support children.

When children behave in unacceptable ways:

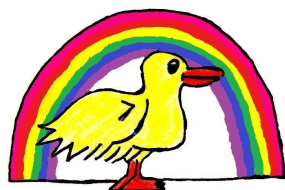
- Physical punishment, such as smacking, will be neither used nor threatened, and children will never be sent out of the room by themselves.
- Children will be given support in seeing what was wrong and working towards a better pattern of behaviour.
- Adults will always aim to distract and re-direct the child's attention.
- At certain times it may be necessary to give the child space in order for them to calm down. If this is the case, this will be done by withdrawing other children or adults from

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Holbein Close, Basingstoke, RG21 3EX.

☎ 01256 413794 littleducklings@ymail.com

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the situation, and ensuring that their environment is as safe as possible to avoid a child causing injury to themselves or a member of staff.

- Where a child has clearly behaved in an unacceptable manner, they may be given a period of “thinking time” with adult support, for example, asked to go to a different activity for a short space of time before they re-join the group they were in. At no time will any child be singled out or humiliated in any way, and at all times the adult concerned will explain clearly to the child why their behaviour is unacceptable. Adults will not shout in anger or raise their voices in a threatening way.
- Adults will make themselves aware of, and respect, any cultural expectations regarding interactions with people that may be relevant to the children in the Pre-School.
- Adults will need to recognise that the children in their care are learning to deal with a range of emotions and feelings, and so acknowledge those feelings and work with the children to find a constructive solution.
- Any inappropriate behaviour will be handled in a developmentally appropriate fashion, respecting individual children’s level of understanding and maturity.
- Adults will be aware that some kinds of behaviour may arise from a child’s special needs, and will deal with that behaviour appropriately. It is the responsibility of the SENCO to advise the Pre-School staff as necessary.

Physical Intervention

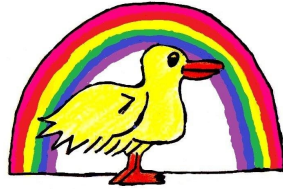
There are some circumstances where physical intervention is both appropriate and necessary, in order to ensure that the child is safe. This might be in order to prevent an accident, such as a child running into the road, or to prevent injury or damage to a child, for example, if they are having a tantrum.

If physical intervention is considered appropriate, we will ensure that it should be used with minimum force and for minimum time. All adults are aware of the following guidelines:

- Do not push or pull a child.
- Hold on to a child’s long bones (arms rather than wrists) to prevent dislocation of joints.
- Where possible avoid lifting children. Move them along on their feet while guiding them firmly.

If such an incident occurs, the staff will record:

- the child’s name
- the date, time and location of the incident
- what triggered the incident (if known)
- the nature of the incident
- other children or adults involved



- any witnesses
- How the situation was handled, what form of restraint was used and any consequences.

This information will be shared with the child's parent/carer at the earliest opportunity by the Manager and/or the child's Key Person, who will be asked to sign and date that they have been made aware of the incident.

All such records will remain confidential to the Pre-School and the child's parent/carer (see Confidentiality Policy).

External Agencies

If a recurring difficulty arises from one particular child then the Pre-School may consult with an external agency such as Services for Young Children helpline or book onto ISSO (Inclusion Setting Support Officers) surgery. A behaviour plan can then be discussed with consistent strategies decided by those involved. It is our policy that parents/carers are fully involved with the process of discussion and planning of behaviour strategies that are put into place.

Informing and Consulting Parents

At Little Ducklings Pre-School we will not discuss a child's behaviour with staff or parents in front of them or other people.

In most cases, any communication will be made with parents/carers. If it necessary to speak to Parent/Carer directly, then the child's Key Person and/or the Pre-School Manager will contact the parent/carer and make an appointment to see them.

We will aim to maintain ongoing communication with parents/carers until any issues concerning their child's behaviour are resolved.

Exclusion

There are certain types of behaviour that are completely unacceptable in our Pre-School, including bullying, racism, fighting, vandalism, homophobia or deliberate injury to another child or a member of staff. If these occur the child's parent/carer will be informed at the earliest opportunity.

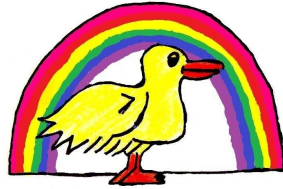
Such incidents will be dealt with in a manner that is consistent with the aims and objectives of this policy, as for any other form of unacceptable behaviour. However, in exceptional circumstances if this type of behaviour in a child continues, it may be necessary to exclude that child from the Pre-School for an appropriate period.

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Signed on behalf of Little Ducklings Pre-School: _____

Position: _____