

LITTLE HEATH NURSERY PLAYGROUP

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Behaviour Management Policy

At Little Heath Nursery Playgroup we believe that children flourish best when they know how they are expected to behave and should be free to play and learn without fear of being hurt or unfairly treated by anyone else. We aim to provide an environment in which there is acceptable behaviour and where children learn to respect themselves, others and their environment.

Children misbehave because they have not yet learnt how to react to feelings and needs in acceptable ways. The most common needs and feelings that can trigger unacceptable behaviour are: lack of adult attention, boredom, curiosity, imitation, self-preservation, independence, anger, frustration, anxiety, fear, excitement, anticipation.

Our 10 Golden Rules which we implement with children of all ages

1) Building up children's 5 'C's.

These are the 5 key characteristics that we are aiming to develop to underpin good behaviour: Confidence, Communication, Cooperation, Curiosity and Concentration.

2) Promote Positive Behaviour For children to co-operate with routines and expected behaviour we promote positive behaviour by:

- Being a good role model,
- Giving lots of praise ,
- Being consistent,
- Praise them for good behaviour, (positive reinforcement)
- Give clear warnings,
- Positive body language,
- Have clear boundaries.

3) Setting Boundaries. Children need to understand the rules and have clear boundaries set for them. We refer to our code of kindness everyday in a positive way. Children need to know the rules of the nursery as they may be different from home.

- We are friendly to one another at nursery,

- We walk around the nursery,
- We share toys with one another,
- We touch gently with our hands,
- We listen to each other,
- We sit nicely at meal times,
- We use our “indoor/quiet voices” in the nursery room.

4) Building Relationships. We are aiming to achieve an environment in which all children can flourish is dependent upon warm, harmonious relationships. Good team relationships with colleagues, parents and children are fundamental to successfully managing children.

5) Showing Respect. We show respect to our children by

- The way we listen, and quality of our attention
- Our facial expression and body language
- The language we use
- The way we touch.

6) Understanding Feelings. Understanding and recognising how the children feel is crucial. It is important to help the children understand their own feelings and how to manage them. We teach children how to do this through daily activities.

7) Talking Appropriately. Children have a lot to learn about language so it is vital when talking to them, we are sure they understand what is being asked of them. It is very easy for a misunderstanding to arise. When talking to children make sure:

- It is a clear short message,
- You are specific,
- You are positive,
- You are close to the child and try to make eye contact,
- You use a firm yet calm voice,
- Avoid comparison.

8) Giving Clear Instructions. Children are just learning that questions invite a variety of answers and it is confusing if this is not acceptable. "Would you like to put your coat on" This statement may seem to an adult a polite way of giving instruction

but to a child it may seem like opportunity to make a choice. Try "Put on your coat on, please"

9) Understanding Attention Span. Children's attention span is not very long. You should not expect an attention span of more than 1 min for a 1 year old, 2 min for a 2 year old etc. Children can't listen & do at the same time. They need to stop what they are doing before given instruction. It is easier to remember what to do if the instructions are given in the order in which they have to be done. Sign language or pictures / visual clues may help for some children.

10) Giving Rewards. Rewards should be given to children to encourage them to repeat the behaviour that we want. This small reward should be immediate, meaningful to the child, and varied from time to time.

Children respond to praise and social approval. Remember for children your attention is often the biggest reward and positive attention is so much more effective than negative attention. Rewards we may use in the nursery:

- Praise and encouragement- "Thank you for picking up the toys."
- Attention - Smile. Thumbs up.
- Special activities - Choosing a story.
- Special reward stickers

Modify Unacceptable Behaviour (MUB)

Before we modify unacceptable behaviour we **STOP** and check the following points:

- **Surroundings** - Are the surroundings suitable for the child's age & development.
- **Toys** - Are there enough available and are they appropriate to the child's age & development.
- **Observation** - Did you see exactly what happened or just the end result?
- **Promoting Good Behaviour** - Are we promoting good behaviour throughout the day.

If all the above items are in place we will then modify unacceptable behaviour by:

- Talking to the child in a firm yet calm voice, keep it short ,
- Encourage them to make it better, change the mood,
- Re-join the child in an activity,

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- If he/she repeats the unwanted threatening behaviour (to self or others) time out may be given.
- The time out area will be varied, close to staff member and away from others. The child will never be unattended or excluded from activities.
- They will then be encouraged to re-join with the activity.

If the challenging behaviour continues it may involve putting together an action plan under our persistent unacceptable behaviour procedure. The incident book is kept in the locked cupboard. Incidents will be recorded by the member of staff who witnessed the incident. The child's name, date, time, location and nature of the incident are recorded, together with others involved and details of how the situation was handled and any resulting consequences. This record may be used to feed back to parents. Parents will be invited to a meeting and an appropriate action plan will be decided together. If the situation persists, outside agencies may be contacted to offer constructive, confidential advice. **If the situation is still unresolved the nursery may request for temporary suspension or termination of the child's attendance.**

Our Staff:

All staff are required to keep up to date with current legislation. We also encourage staff to attend training and feed back to other staff. All adults in the Nursery will 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.

We respect the child's self esteem and acknowledge his/her feelings. We make sure they know the nursery rules. Sometimes ignoring the little things and redirecting a child's play can be more effective in the short term. Positive attention is much more effective than negative attention.

Behaviour is learnt, it can change, practice makes perfect and consistency is key.