



# Spinney Pre-School Physical Handling/Intervention Policy

## Policy statement

Our setting believes that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met and where there are clear and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour.

Children are encouraged to learn to consider the views and feelings, needs and rights, of others and the impact that their behaviour has on people, places and objects. We aim to help children take responsibility for their own behaviour through a combination of approaches:

- Positive role modelling
- Planning a range of interesting and challenging activities
- Setting and enforcing appropriate boundaries and expectations
- Providing positive feedback.

## Definition of physical handling

There are 3 types of physical intervention:

- **Positive handling** - touch is a normal part of human interaction and appropriate touch would be:
  - Giving guidance to children (such as how to hold a paintbrush or when climbing)
  - Providing emotional support (such as placing an arm around a distressed child)
  - Physical care (such as first aid, toileting and nappy changing – **with reference to our Health and Safety Policy.**)
- **Physical intervention** – can include mechanical and environmental means such as high chairs, stair gates or locked doors to ensure the child's safety.
- **Restrictive physical intervention** – when a staff member physically restricts a child's movement in order to ensure the child's safety. In most cases this would be through the use of the adult's body rather than mechanical or environmental methods.

## Procedures for use of Restrictive Physical Intervention

There are occasionally times when a child's behaviour presents particular challenges that may require physical handling and this policy sets out our expectations for the use of physical handling.

The named person who has overall responsibility for our programme for supporting personal, social and emotional development, including issues concerning behaviour is **Mrs Anne Rix.**

Restrictive physical handling will be:

- Used in the context of a positive behaviour management framework, as set out in the Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy
- **Only** used in extreme circumstances, where there is a risk of danger to the child or children.
- Used in conjunction with other strategies, such as diverting a child to another activity or saying 'stop'.
- Used as part of the staff's duty of care towards the children, so they are able to intervene to prevent accident or injury.
- Used with the principles of reasonable minimal force in order to maintain safety and for as short a period as possible.

## Who can use restrictive physical intervention?

- In an emergency any member of staff who sees that a child is in danger can use physical intervention to prevent an accident or injury to the child or children.
- Where individual children's behaviour requires restrictive physical intervention then the most appropriate person might be the child's Key person or one-to-one.
- Staff will be given guidance and training in behaviour managements as well as physical intervention techniques.

## When can restrictive physical intervention be used?

- Restrictive physical intervention can be used when:
  - A child is injuring themselves or others
  - A child is damaging property
  - There is suspicion that although injury or damage has not yet happened, it is at immediate risk of occurring.
- Staff have a duty of care to ensure protective measures are in place to restrict children leaving the premises and ensuring adequate staffing levels are in place both indoors and outdoors and on outings.

### **When can restrictive physical intervention be used? (Continued)**

- There may be circumstances when restrictive physical intervention is justified but the situation might be made worse if it is used. If staff judge that this is the case and the situation would be made worse they should either issue an instruction to stop, seek help or make the area safe which is consistent with their duty of care.
- Restrictive physical intervention would never be used out of anger, as a punishment or as an alternative to measures which are less intrusive.

### **What type of restrictive physical intervention can or cannot be used?**

Where it is judged that restrictive physical intervention is necessary, staff should:

- Aim for side-by-side contact with the child with no gap between the adult's and child's body to minimise risk of impact and damage.
- Avoid positioning themselves in front or behind the child to reduce risk of being kicked or allegations of sexual misconduct.
- Beware of particular head positioning, to avoid head butts
- Hold children by 'long' bones, i.e. avoid grasping at joints where pain and damage are most likely
- Ensure no restriction to the child's ability to breathe, this means avoid holding a child around the chest cavity or stomach
- Avoid lifting children.

### **Recording and Reporting**

Following an emergency, the situation will be reviewed and a risk assessment undertaken and it may be necessary to write an individual behaviour plan to support the child.

- Whenever an incident requiring physical intervention has taken place, a record will be made which include must the following information:
  - Who was involved. (child and staff and any observers)
  - Details of any witnesses.
  - The reason intervention was considered appropriate.
  - How the child was held.
  - When it happened. (date and time)
  - How long the child was held.
  - Any subsequent injury or distress.
  - What action was taken in respect of any injury or distress.
- The written record should be completed as soon as possible after the incident but within 24 hours.
- The Parent/Carer will be informed by telephone immediately after the incident if it is judged appropriate to do so.
- The Parent/Carer will be required to sign the record and will be given a copy if they request one.
- The record will be kept in the child's file
- If an injury has taken place then a record of the incident will also be made in the accident book.

### **Support and Review**

We appreciate that it can be distressing for all concerned when restrictive physical intervention has to be used and therefore we recognise the need to support the child, any other children who observed the incident, any staff involved and the Parents/Carers

We will:

- Talk to the child and record how the child felt if this is appropriate to their stage of development and level of understanding
- If appropriate talk to any other children who may have witnessed the intervention
- Staff will be given the opportunity to discuss what has happened with the most appropriate person from the staff team, this would normally be the Supervisor as soon after the incident as possible.
- The matter will be discussed at the next 1:1 staff supervision meeting
- Parents will be given the opportunity to discuss the intervention with the child's Keyperson and their views and concerns recorded.
- If necessary an individual behaviour plan will be prepared and this will be reviewed and monitored on a regular basis.

### **Complaints**

Where anyone (a Parent, Carer, Child, Staff member or Visitor) has a concern that a restrictive physical intervention was inappropriate or excessive then they should speak to the Supervisor as soon as possible. Any complaint will be dealt with through the setting's usual complaints procedure.

**This policy was adopted at a meeting of the pre-school held on (date) -----**

**Signed on behalf of the pre-school -----**

**Linked Policies**

Achieving Positive Behaviour (Behaviour management)

**Other useful Pre School Learning Alliance publications**

- Reflecting on Behaviour 2010
- The Social Child (2007)

**Other Guidance**

Department for Education (July 2013) *Use of Reasonable Force* (for maintained schools but does indicate good practice guidance).