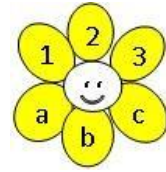


North Leigh Pre-school

13.1 Physical handling and intervention policy



Policy statement

Our policy will be supported by advice from the Early Years Foundation Stage or the Specialist Early Years teams.

All staff within the setting aim to help children take responsibility for their own behaviour. The age of a child and their level of development and understanding **MUST** be taken into consideration

North Leigh Pre-school will use a combination of approaches, in partnership with the parent/carer, which include:

- Positive role modelling
- Planning a range of interesting and challenging activities
- Setting and enforcing appropriate boundaries and expectations
- Providing positive feedback.
- Supporting the children to discuss and work together to decide what rules should be in place in the setting; thereby encouraging them to have ownership of those rules and boundaries set.
- However, there may be occasional times when a child's behaviour presents challenges that may require physical handling. This policy sets out expectations for the use of physical handling.

Definitions

There are three main types of physical intervention:

Positive handling.

The positive use of touch is a normal part of human interaction. Touch might be appropriate in a range of situations: 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) or physical care (such as first aid or toileting). Staff must exercise appropriate care when using touch. There are some children for whom touch would be inappropriate such as those with a history of physical or sexual abuse. The setting's policy is not intended to imply that staff should no longer touch children.

Physical intervention.

Physical intervention can include mechanical and environmental means such as high chairs, stair gates or locked doors. These may be appropriate ways of ensuring a child's safety.

Restrictive physical intervention.

This is when a member of staff uses physical force intentionally to restrict a child's movement against his or her will reducing any risk to the child, other children or adults in the immediate area. In most cases this will be using the adult's body rather than mechanical or environmental methods.

Review December, 2021

When physical intervention is used, it is used within the principle of reasonable minimal force. Staff will only use as little restrictive force as necessary to maintain safety. Staff will use this for as short a period as possible.

This policy refers mainly to the use of restrictive bodily physical intervention.

Codes for the use of restrictive physical intervention

- Restrictive physical handling at North Leigh Pre-school will be used in the context of our positive behaviour management approaches.
- North Leigh Pre-school will only use restrictive physical intervention in extreme circumstances.
- Restrictive physical handling is not North Leigh Pre-School's preferred way of managing children's behaviour.
- North Leigh Pre-school has a well-established Positive Behaviour Management policy and uses strategies to promote positive behaviour. North Leigh Pre-School aims to do all it can to avoid using restrictive physical intervention.
- Restrictive physical intervention will never be used out of anger, as a punishment or as an alternative to measures which are less intrusive and which staff judge would be effective.
- A second member of staff to be present during restrictive physical intervention to safeguard child and adult.

North Leigh Pre-school will use restrictive positive intervention when:

- There are clearly situations of such extreme danger that create an immediate need for the use of restrictive physical intervention. They may be used alongside other strategies such as saying "stop".
- When children are in danger of hurting themselves, others or of causing considerable damage to property.

Who can use restrictive physical Intervention

- The child's key person will usually be involved in a restrictive physical intervention. The keyperson is most likely to be able to use other methods to support the child and keep them safe without using physical intervention.
- In an emergency, any qualified member of staff can use restrictive physical intervention if it is consistent with the setting's policy.
- Where individual children's behaviour means that they are likely to require restrictive physical intervention, staff should identify members of staff who are most appropriate to be involved.
- Staff who are regularly required to use restrictive physical intervention will receive training.
- Where it is judged that restrictive physical intervention is necessary, staff should:
 - Aim for side-by-side contact with the child.
 - Avoid positioning themselves in front (to reduce the risk of being kicked) or behind (to reduce the risk of allegations of sexual misconduct).
 - Aim for no gap between the adult's and child's body, where they are side by side. This minimises the risk of impact and damage.

- Aim to keep the adult’s back as straight as possible.
- Beware of head positioning, to avoid head butts from the child.
- Hold children by “long” bones, i.e. avoid grasping at joints where pain and damage are most likely.
- Ensure that there is no restriction to the child’s ability to breathe. This means avoiding holding a child around the chest cavity or stomach.
- Avoid lifting mobile children where possible.

Recording and reporting

North Leigh Pre-school will record all incidences of restrictive physical handling in the incident file and ask parents and staff to sign and date. A copy will be given to the parents/carers.

A risk assessment may be undertaken and staff in consultation with parents may consider reviewing the individual behaviour plan so that the risk of needing to use restrictive physical intervention again is reduced.

After a restrictive physical intervention

- North Leigh Pre-school aims to support all who are involved in a restrictive physical intervention, whether as the person doing the holding, the child being held or someone observing or hearing about what has happened.
- Staff will give support to the child so that they can understand why they were held.
- Where appropriate, staff may have the same sort of conversations with other children who observed what happened (dependent upon their age and level of understanding). In all cases, staff will wait until the child has calmed down enough to be able to talk productively and understand this conversation.
- If necessary, an independent member of staff will check for injury and provide appropriate first aid. The adults should be given the chance to talk through what has happened with the most appropriate person from the staff team.
- Parents /Carers will be contacted to inform them that restrictive physical intervention has taken place.
- A record is kept in the incident file. The record is signed and dated by staff and parents.
- Where anyone (child, carer, staff member or visitor) has a concern, this should be dealt with through the setting’s usual complaints procedure.

Adopted by North Leigh Management Committee

Signed by chairperson – Mrs. E Cookson

Date.....1st December, 2020

Review December, 2021