

JACK AND JILL PLAYGROUP

CHILD RESTRAINT: POLICY AND PRACTICE

If a situation occurs where a child displays behaviour that may put themselves, other children, staff and volunteers in danger or damage themselves or equipment, the supervisor must decide whether physical intervention or restraint by a member of staff is necessary.

The age and level of understanding of the child must be always considered before any action is taken.

If a child should become aggressive, displaying unwanted behaviour in the setting:

- Always try and talk to the child in an attempt to diffuse the situation and tell them what could happen if they do not stop.
- Ensure furniture, equipment or other children are moved away from the vicinity to prevent them being hurt.
- If you believe there is an immediate risk of injury to the child, children in the group, members of staff or yourself, you may need to take necessary action to prevent this from happening.
- This action may involve physical intervention or restraint by a member of the staff team such as holding, only to prevent physical injury to children or adults and/or serious damage to property.
- We aim to protect the distressed child`s, physical and emotional well-being at all times.

What is seen as physical restraint or intervention?

- Holding a child or leading the child away by the hand or arm
- Lifting or carrying a child
- Blocking a child's path
- Physically standing between children
- In exceptional circumstances, using more of a restrictive hold by carrying the child from the situation .consistent with 'reasonable force'
- Guiding the child away from a situation by using the hand in centre of the back.

In no circumstance should any staff member:

- Hold a child around the neck
 - Use or threaten physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking.
 - Twist a child's wrist or limb against a joint
 - Hold a child face down on the floor
 - Hold a child by the hair or ear.
 - Trip a child up in any way.
 - Act in anger towards a child or lose their temper in such a way as to cause fear.
 - Shout or raise their voice in a threatening way.
- If any physical intervention is used a written record will be made at the time of the incident. Details of the event (what happened, action taken and by whom, including witnesses) are recorded and brought to the attention of the supervisor/manager. The child's parent is informed on the same day and will be required to sign the written physical restraint record to indicate they have been informed.

Staff should discuss with parents how best to respond to their child's behaviour, and revisit the settings Behaviour Management Policy.

Physical restraint may lead to a complaint being made. In the event of a complaint made against a member of staff, the LADO and Ofsted must be informed immediately and the settings procedure for dealing with allegations against staff must be followed.

Telephone No;

Medway Children`s Services: LADO 01634 331229 (Adult)
Ofsted: 0300 123 3155 (Whistle blowing)

Confidentiality must be adhered to at all times.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Jack and Jill Playgroup held on:

Signed on behalf of the pre-school:

CHAIRPERSON

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