



Behaviour Policy

1. All parents/carers should try at all times to be supportive to other parents and carers within the group if they are having behaviour difficulties with their child. Most children will at some stage of their development go through difficult periods, e.g. biting or hitting.
2. Teething or lack of speech can cause some children to bite out of frustration. If this is a cause for concern parents/carers within the group are asked to speak to the leader in private rather than directly confronting another parent.
3. The group does not find smacking or any form of physical punishment acceptable, and will not allow it in the group.
4. At very young ages children are not always aware their behaviour is inconsiderate. If a child's behaviour is causing problems for other children their parent/carer is to be encouraged to make the child aware of why the behaviour is a concern and why they should not continue to behave in the same way. If a child is distressed and it is age appropriate, the child should be encouraged to say sorry to the other child with the support of the adult. The child should then be removed from the situation and encouraged to participate in another activity.
5. Children should be helped to develop self-discipline and to respect the needs of others by caring, sharing and taking turns. All adults should respect other members of the group in order to reinforce this.
6. We will be positive and will reinforce good behaviour by giving encouragement at all times and try to play down unwanted behaviour.
7. If a child is persistently causing problems within the group the situation will need to be dealt with in an understanding and sympathetic way. If several parents/carers are really concerned one adult should discuss this with the group leader in confidence aiming to resolve the situation. It may be that the parent/carer is already working together with a health visitor or other professional. Sometimes giving the parent/carer support and help can assist them through difficult times e.g. is it a particular piece of equipment that is causing the problems and could it be removed for a time or does the child get tired then start biting? Encourage parents/carers to look at trigger points and consider how the group could help.
8. No standing or climbing on equipment which is not for that purpose, is allowed. Allowing misuse of equipment can result in problems should an insurance claim occur. Parents/carers should discourage such behaviour especially where young children are copying the behaviour of older children. While the action may not cause harm to an older child it could result in danger for a younger child.
9. Children should be discouraged from throwing equipment unless it is designed for that purpose i.e. a ball.
10. Parents/carers are encouraged to praise children when they are kind and help each other, reinforcing positive behaviour. Positive methods of guidance, not frightening or humiliating methods of control should be the norm.
11. Adults should be aware that they are role models for the children in the group and how they act and behave will impact on the development of the children. No swearing, arguing, fighting or any action that could offend other parents/carers or children is allowed within the group. Should this happen the leader should be informed and they may need to speak to the individual about the unwanted behaviour.