



Procedure on the Use of Physical Intervention in the Early Years

Below are guidelines on the use of physical intervention. All staff, including voluntary workers, are aware of and agree to our policy. This procedure forms part of our policy on positive behaviour management.

All Practitioners aim to protect the interests of the children in their care as well as protecting themselves.

We are aware of the fact that young children do not necessarily consciously plan their physical aggressive behaviour and are not necessarily aware of the impact and outcomes that their actions may have on others.

The principal aim of any adult interventions is to support the child in order to benefit from early experiences aimed at promoting appropriate learning and development and to promote self-control appropriate to the child's age / stage of development.

We seek additional advice from other professionals if physical intervention is required for a child as part of a behaviour management programme (for example, Educational Psychologist, Behaviour Support Teacher). The intervention is clearly identified on a support plan shared by all adults and agreed with the child's parents.

What is Physical Intervention?

Adult intervention (interaction and support) with a child requiring physical contact.

Physical intervention should not result in any form of restraint unless it is necessary for one of the following:

- To stop or prevent physical aggression towards others – adult or child
- To stop or prevent deliberate damage which may harm child or others
- To prevent dangerous situations
- To prevent a child or children from coming to any harm (safeguarding)
- To support a child in learning self control in any of the above situations.

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT SHOULD ONLY BE USED IN HIGH-RISK SITUATIONS IE. WHEN A CHILD, OTHER CHILDREN OR ADULTS ARE AT RISK OF HARM.