

Mitchell Walk Playgroup

Physical Handling Policy

Statement of Intent

We use the positive behaviour management approach in setting to comfort a child, this would also be used to show them how to hold items correctly and how to climb. Restrictive physical handling is only used in extreme circumstances. We would only use restrictive physical handling when we believe it is in the best interest of the child. Their safety is paramount.

We have a duty of care towards the children in the setting. If the children were in danger of hurting others or themselves, we have a responsibility to intervene which may involve the use of restrictive physical handling.

Aim

We aim to help children to take responsibility for their own behaviour. This is done through several different approaches.

- Give positive feedback and praise.
- Enforce the appropriate boundaries.
- Explain what is expected of them.
- Plan different challenging activities.
- Positive role modelling.
- Explain how to treat others.

Definitions of Handling

Positive Handling

- Guiding a child - to hold a paint brush or climb on a frame.
- To give emotional support - placing an arm around a distressed child.
- Personal Care - toileting, nappy changing or administering first aid.

Physical Handling

- Mechanical and environmental – locked gate / doors

Restrictive Physical handling

- This is usually through the use of the adults body rather than mechanical or

environmental methods. Physical force is used intentionally to restrict a child's movement.

Use of restrictive physical intervention

Restrictive physical intervention can be justified when

- Someone is injuring themselves.
- Someone is injuring someone else.
- Someone is causing property damage.
- There is suspicion that one of the above might occur.

Mitchell Walk staff have a duty of care that means we may use restrictive physical intervention if a child wants to leave the setting and we judge the child to be at risk. There maybe an occasion when restrictive physical intervention is not suitable to use and may make the situation worse. If this was the case we would make the area safe and seek help from other staff members. The only time restrictive physical intervention would be used is to restore safety to the child and those around them.

We never use restrictive physical intervention to keep a child in time out.

Recording and Reporting

Any use of restrictive physical intervention will be recorded on the Restrictive Physical Intervention Record Form as soon as possible. We would inform the parents / carers when they return to collect the child. They will be given a copy of the record form. Our Chairperson will also be informed.

Complaints

When restrictive physical intervention is used it can lead to allegations of inappropriate or excessive use. If anyone has a concern we will deal with it through our complaints procedure.

This Physical Handling Policy was adopted at a meeting of Mitchell Walk Playgroup held on

Date:

Signed on behalf of the Mitchell Walk Playgroup Management Committee:

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Name:

Role:

To be reviewed on (date):