



The North London Forest School Nursery

Behaviour Policy / Social and Emotional Development

Aims

- For children to feel safe in the nursery
- Foster positive self-image, high self-esteem
- Encourage self-discipline
- Happiness and confidence
- Respect of children by adults and by other children
- Self-control
- Build communication skills
- Strong emphasis on co-operation, de-emphasize competitiveness

Provision

- Children are not allowed to bring guns or other weapons and are not allowed to make them with the toys. We discourage imaginative play based on aggressive or violent behaviour.
- Positive role models
- Group activities, collaborative learning
- Experience in turn-taking and sharing
- Encouraging children to consider other people's feelings through stories, taking care of new younger children
- Experience listening to and being listened to, hearing each other

Adult's role

- Being good role models
- Treating children with respect
- Praising good behaviour rather than criticizing negative behaviour
- Explaining why certain behaviour is unacceptable
- Giving children strategies for dealing with difficult situations
- Being consistent / having a team approach, in particular in dealing with children with behavioural difficulties

Strategies for staff and parents

- No shouting at children, or physical punishment of any kind by staff or by parents in the nursery
- Make rules and boundaries clear for children
- Focus on praise where possible for acceptable behaviour

- Understand reasons for aggressive behaviour, e.g. language delay, behavioural problems
- Monitor difficult behaviour and discuss issues with parents so that we have a shared approach in dealing with incidents.
- Inform both sets of parents if when children are involved in an incident
- Identify situations that the child finds difficult to deal with so that they can be avoided or faced in a controlled way.
- Parents to tell their children to ask adults for help if they experience violence, rather than hitting back.
- Staff and parents to inform each other of any injuries received at the nursery.

Immediate Responses to Unacceptable Behaviour

Peer on peer aggression is taken very seriously and is considered as abuse.

At The North London Forest School Nursery we do not accept any form of peer on peer aggression and both the victim the aggressor will be supported as described below.

What should staff say to the child concerned?

Physical aggression

- Ask children "what happened?"
- Acknowledge that it has happened out of anger, but explain that the behaviour has upset and hurt and is unacceptable

Spitting

Explain the germ issue and that the behaviour upsets others.

Parents

Inform victim's parents where an injury happened. Also tell parent of aggressor. Encourage parents to tell children not to hit back but to firmly say "No" to aggressor and ask an adult for help.

Racist comments from children

Two issues are involved in a comment like "I'm not playing with him because he's black": Deal with it as a friendship issue and also about race or other physical characteristics.

- Staff need to talk to child about physical differences and relate it to themselves - "my skin colour" - "my colour hair", etc.
- talk to the child specifically about racist comments "I don't like you saying that", "I don't want you to and neither does ..." (name other staff, children) so that they see that it's personal

What should staff do?

Physical aggression

- Comfort the victim at the same time as talking to both
- Involve the aggressor in sorting out the injury: fetching tissues, holding ice pack, etc.
- Where injury is quite serious or behaviour persistent, child is required to sit beside the adult, not engaging in an activity for one to two minutes then adult talks to the child.

"I'm not your friend"

Monitor who this is happening with. If happening with some children persistently, staff need to be aware of grouping children for activities making sure that children get to know each other better. If a child is still excluded by another child, both children must be supported by staff.

Children who are being excluded by others from play must be supported by adults by feeling empowered through a variety of strategies.

Key points

At the North London Forest School Nursery we encourage positive behaviour by providing good role models for children:

- We do not allow shouting at children or physical punishment of any kind by staff or parents in the nursery.
- We do not allow peer on peer aggression.
- We make rules and boundaries clear for children and we are consistent and fair.
- We praise good behaviour and use positive language to encourage it, 'please walk' rather than 'don't run'.
- We do not allow play fighting, toy guns or other toy weapons in the nursery.
- We place strong emphasis on co-operation, avoiding competition.
- We provide group activities and encourage sharing and collaborative learning.
- We place a strong emphasis on developing children's communication skills, particularly their listening skills.

The implementation of this policy will be monitored, evaluated and where necessary amended and updated annually.

Created: 5.09.2014

This policy is reviewed annually.