Policy - Behaviour

Title: Behaviour

Category: Safeguarding Children

Review Date: N/A

Description:

Promoting positive behaviour is very important and we do this by:

Giving lots of praise for good behaviour.
Giving the children individual attention so they feel valued.
Setting a good example, being a good role model.
Listening to what the children have to say.
Rewarding good behaviour (choosing next activity etc).
Using a good behaviour chart if necessary.
Giving children certificates for good behaviour, sharing etc.

We help the children understand our house rules, which are realistic and we are consistent in the enforcing of them. We do not give out confusing signals, Saying No means No!

We are aware of the different reasons why children might show negative behaviour and will endeavour to keep to routines so that your child feels safe and is not over tired or hungry.

However all children will display challenging behaviour at sometime. We have developed several different strategies on how to deal with this and use different ones depending on the age/stage of ability of the child and the situation:

Distraction. Remove the child from the situation and give them an alternative activity.
Ignore. Depending on the situation we may ignore the bad behaviour as we feel it is being done to get a reaction.
Discuss with Child. If the child is able to understand we will discuss their behaviour and try and get them to appreciate the consequences of their actions on others. We inform them that it is their behaviour that we do not like not them.
Time Away. Removing the child from the activity and sitting them quietly for a few minutes to regulate their emotions with support from a member of staff where required.
Reinforcing positive behaviours.

We will never smack, shake or hurt your child or use any kind of physical force unless we have to intervene to prevent injury to themselves or another person.

If your child displays an incidence of negative behaviour, we will let you know at collection. Some children can become upset if the incident is retold in front of them so we will try do this discreetly. We will also inform you of how the matter was dealt with. In most cases the matter will not require any further action, punishing a child hours after an incident achieves nothing but confusion and upset.

There may be times when we will need to physically intervene or restrain a child to prevent injury or stop an incident taking place, this could be when the child is, has or is about to scratch, bite or hit another child or run into a road etc. Physical interventions will only be used as a last resort and we will use the minimum force necessary.

We will explain to the child, according to their age and understanding that their actions are unacceptable behaviour. For younger child this may be by my tone of voice and facial expressions rather than lots of words.

It may be necessary for us to exclude the child from an activity and use time out, we will also encourage the child to apologise to the other child and work with them to develop strategies to help them deal with the reasons why the incident took place or was about to take place.

In cases where a child is consistently displaying negative or challenging behaviours, we will speak with you to discuss strategies that can be used to encourage more positive behaviours. We will also look for other strategies such as changing days/hours which may be more appropriate for them to attend.

We do always have to consider the safety of all of the children and adults within the setting, and on very rare occasions we may have to make the difficult decision that we are unable to accommodate a child's needs. It is important to remember that not every setting is suitable for every child and it can take a little while for children to find a setting that is right for them. We will always ensure that we have tried all strategies available to us to accommodate the child and their needs before we come to this decision.