



3.7 Physical Intervention Policy

Aims

- The aim of this policy is to inform staff, children, parents/carers and outside agencies the rationale and use of physical interventions in managing challenging behaviours warranting their use.
- To establish consistent procedures and a solid framework for the safe restraint of children in the setting, to maintain good order in the nursery.

Legal Position

- All staff are required to maintain good order among children and to safeguard their health and safety both when they are authorised to be on the nursery premises and when they are engaged in authorised nursery activities elsewhere.
- "All school staff members have a legal power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing a criminal offence, injuring themselves or others or damaging property, and to maintain good order and discipline" (Use of force guidance, DCSF 2010)
- This policy on physical intervention and the procedures therein is one part of our whole setting's arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in line with our statutory duties set out at s175 of the Education Act 2002.

When physical intervention may be appropriate

We recognise that force to restrain or control children must be used as a last resort and only for the minimum amount of time necessary to resolve or contain a given situation, using the minimum amount of force and giving due consideration to the safety and welfare of all children, and staff members as appropriate at all times. To minimise the use of force, other strategies and techniques must be used before the application of force to control or restrain as endorsed in this policy. All staff must use consistent positive strategies to encourage acceptable behaviour by:

- Creating a calm, orderly and supportive nursery climate that minimises the risk and threat of violence of any kind and developing positive relationships between children and staff.
- Using Social and Emotional aspects of learning approaches to teach children how to manage and resolve conflict and strong feelings.
- Ensuring appropriate training that helps staff to acquire the skills of positive behaviour management and managing conflict, as well as supporting after each incident.

- Recognising that situations which trigger challenging behaviours are often foreseeable (Identifying patterns/triggers from observations).

Physical intervention must never be used as a form of physical chastisement or punishment.

That being said, physical intervention is rarely used in the setting. Most incidents of challenging behaviour can be managed by talking to the children and following the strategies in our Behaviour policy. However on rare occasions it may be necessary for intervention for the following reasons:

- When there is immediate danger of personal injury to the child
- When there is immediate danger of injury to another person
- To avoid damage to property
- When a child is behaving in a way to cause serious disruption to other children

What do we mean by physical intervention? (see Appendix 1 for guidelines)

Physical intervention by staff can take several forms. It could include:

- Physically interposing self between children
- Blocking a child's path
- Safe holding
- Pushing a child gently with hand in the small of the back
- Removing shoes if a child has kicked or attempted to kick a person or property
- Holding a child around the shoulders while sitting adjacent to them
- Moving a child to another room or restricted place (this will depend on the severity of the situation)
- Stopping rough play

How do we involve parents?

- We encourage parents/carers to support the nursery in promoting good behaviour in their children so as to minimise the use of force in our nursery.
- We will encourage parents/carers to comment on and contribute to the reviewing of this policy.
- However, parental consent is not required for an authorised member of staff to use force to control or restrain any child, in accordance with this policy.
- All parents/carers will be informed on the day if their child is involved in an incident. Say "I need to talk to you about your child's behaviour today".

How is physical intervention recorded?

- All incidents of physical intervention are recorded on the Physical Intervention Form attached (see **appendix 2**).
- The report form must be filled in on the day the incident occurred

- All parents/carers will be informed on the day if their child is involved in an incident. They may be given a copy of the form if requested, and time to talk to the member of staff involved.
- A copy of the form will be kept in a folder in the Incident folder in the Nursery Office (Manager to file).

Complaints

- Any complaints from a parent/carer will be dealt with in accordance with our Complaints Policy.

Training

- All staff have received training in "Positive Behaviour Management" by Warwickshire Integrated Disability Service

Monitoring of the policy

Will take place through:

- Observations by Trustees/ Manager/Deputy Manager.
- Monitoring the amount and frequency and the appropriateness of incidents by Manager and Trustees on a termly basis, or as appropriate.
- Self-evaluation by staff involved in incidents.

Evaluation of the policy

Will take place through:

- Self-evaluation by staff
- At staff meeting to review/discuss recorded incidents as they occur and to review this policy as appropriate.

This policy was adopted by

Thorns Community
Trust

on

18th May 2020

Updated August 2022

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory

Jonathan Wright

Role of signatory

Chair

APPENDIX 1

Minimum Use of Force with Children: Guidelines

1. Always focus on reinforcing positive behaviour, especially:
 - Role model appropriate interactions and behaviour
 - Give all children positive attention, recognising and praising appropriate behaviour
 - Use short, clear phrases to talk to the child in a calm, firm voice

2. Watch for potential conflict with other children, e.g.:
 - Walking towards a child playing with new trains on the carpet
 - A child holding an object they have just made
 - Limited or timed resources outside or inside that children have to take turns with

3. Prepare children for having a positive interaction, e.g.:
 - “Justin’s playing with the new trains....is there room for us? Justin, can we have one?”
 - “Shall we make one....what do we need?”
 - “This is where we wait for a turn, what shall we do while we’re waiting?”

4. Distract child away from potential or actual conflict
 - By offering a favourite or alternative toy or activity
 - By reminding children to use their words
 - By moving other children or objects out of reach

5. How to move a child from area if not possible to move other children /objects
 - Always explain what you are going to do
 - Stand behind or beside child
 - Hold child’s shoulders/torso/back, not their arms, hands or wrists
 - Move child by pushing gently, not pulling

6. Ensure children are safe and are able to calm down
 - Move child to nearby space away from the incident so they are able to calm down
 - Describe what is happening in a ‘matter of fact’ tone of voice. Talk to them about the incident and how they are feeling.

7. Ask other adults working nearby to support e.g.:
 - Manage area while you are dealing with incident
 - Move toys etc. out of reach
 - Bring sand timer
 - Move other children away – avoid having an audience (of children or adults)

8. When child is calm + if they are able to reflect:
 - Take them to make amends for aggressive behaviour towards others
 - Clear up things they have thrown or spilled

9. Report and Record events on the day the incident occurred
 - Discuss with Room Leader, Manger or Trustee
 - on Physical Intervention Report form – Appendix 2
 - Notify parent/carer by the end of the day**

APPENDIX 2

Thorns Community Trust

Brambles Pre-School and Out of School Club

Physical Intervention: REPORT FORM

Child's name: _____ Date: _____

Staff involved: _____

Duration: (approximately) _____

Where did the incident occur?

Briefly described what happened

Who witnessed the incident? (names of staff)

Reason for intervention (please tick)

1. Immediate danger of personal injury to pupil ()
2. Immediate danger of injury to another person ()
3. To avoid damage to property ()
4. Disruption to other pupils ()

What was the immediate response from the adult/s involved?

What happened next?

Was any injury sustained? Yes/No (please delete)

If yes, please indicate to whom and/or what

What steps have been taken as a result of the incident?

Short term:

Long term:

Any other relevant information:

Parent/carer must be notified by the end of the day (*by phone/when collecting child)

*please delete

Parent/carer's signature: _____

Member of staff notifying parent: _____ Date _____

Name of person reporting _____

Position _____ Signature _____

Name and position of person checking (Manager, Deputy or Trustee)

Signed _____ Date _____

Policy created August 2015

*This report form must be filed in the 'Physical Intervention Reports' file in the office (Manager to file)