

# **Twyford Playgroup EY484175**

## **BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**Date ratified: February 2025**

**Manager Signature: Rachel Knott**

**Chair of Committee Signature: Melissa Simpson**

**Review Date: February 2026**

The Committee, staff and parents of Twyford playgroup are committed to creating a positive, warm and nurturing ethos that supports the social and emotional development of all children and prioritises emotional health and well-being.

### **Principles**

- We prioritise strong adult-child relationships based on trust, empathy and respect as the starting point for supporting children's social and emotional development
- We recognise that young children are at the early stages of learning to relate to others and to understand and manage their feelings and behaviour. We believe in the positive approach to behaviour where the role of adults is to help children feel safe and secure in school and to guide and nurture children as they develop these skills
- We are consistent with clear expectations and guidelines for acceptable behaviour within Twyford playgroup however, we respond to the unique circumstances of each child and family and adapt our approaches to respond to individual needs, abilities and circumstances
- We recognise that children develop at their own rate and that some may need more support than others. Adults seek to understand the underlying reasons for a child using a particular behaviour and use this understanding to identify strategies to support the child
- We recognise the importance of working in partnership with parents in developing strategies to support individual children at school and in the home
- Adults are important role models for children and set positive examples in their interactions with children, parents, visitors and other members of staff
- We seek to provide a supportive environment for parents and members of the playgroup team as they carry out their role in enabling young children to thrive

### **Promoting Positive behaviour**

1. Adults seek to form strong relationships with the children in their care. High quality, positive interactions between adults and children are the cornerstone of everyday

practice in the setting. Adults get to know children well and understand their strengths and unique circumstances

2. Adults working with children at Twyford playgroup understand the importance of being emotionally available. They have a secure understanding of attachment theory and the potential impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on a young person's development

3. We provide a structured and predictable classroom environment and routine which reflects the age and stage of children in the group and gives children opportunities to make their own choices as well as take part in adult-initiated activities

4. We support young children to learn to make relationships with other people. We provide opportunities to develop social skills with peers such as turn taking supported by sand timers and wait cards. We provide a structured approach to learning how to work cooperatively with adults and other children through carefully planned adult led group activities

5. We aim to promote the development of children's confidence and self-esteem by providing a learning environment which builds on children's strengths and provides appropriate challenge. Adults are careful to reduce frustrations for example by providing sufficient materials for cooperative play and using sand timers to support turn taking

6. We encourage children to have consideration for other people and to take care of their school. Adults use positive reminders to encourage children to follow the expected behaviours for example, "feet on the floor", "safe hands", "Please Walk" rather than "Don't run" and "Put things back where they belong" to encourage tidying up and that everything belongs somewhere

7. Adults notice when children are using positive behaviours and consideration towards others. They give children specific feedback e.g. "Giving your friend a turn was kind- well done!"

8. We use the PATHS programme to support children to recognise and label their feelings and to develop strategies to begin to manage their feelings (PATHS -Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

9. Adults encourage and support children to work out solutions to their own problems and conflicts rather than relying on the adult to sort the problem out for them

10. Adults support their key children in situations when they have found it difficult to manage their feelings and have used behaviours that have upset other people. Adults help children to label the feelings they experienced and let the child know that the adult understands (empathy). Adults help the child to think about what they could do in a similar situation in future (emotion coaching)

11. Adults recognise that for some children transitioning to an adult led activity can be quite challenging. All adults in Twyford playgroup use a consistent approach using cues such as objects, pictures and songs/sounds when transitioning children to adult-led activities such as story time or singing. Children are encouraged to join group activities using strategies that are appropriate for each individual.

Our curriculum supports and promotes strong foundations for social, emotional and behavioural development.

### **Behaviour Support Plans**

Some children may need extra support to learn to manage their feelings and behaviour either at home or at playgroup. Some children may experiment with behaviours such as biting, punching, kicking, pinching, etc. as part of their development and/or communication. At Twyford playgroup we believe that it is important to understand the underlying reasons for the child using a particular behaviour as quickly as possible. We do this using the iceberg approach to think about what might be beneath the behaviour that we are seeing on the surface. Parents and staff will talk about behaviour that is causing concern and jointly plan how to support the child. This may include a Behaviour Support Plan which sets out specific strategies for everyone to follow.

The approach includes looking at a range of factors that may affect the child's behaviour:

- Physical environment
- Curriculum
- Child's ability to communicate
- Teaching new skills
- Reinforcement for appropriate and/or inappropriate behaviour
- Proactive and reactive strategies for intervention (strategies that will help to avoid the behaviour happening in the first place / strategies to use when the behaviour does happen)

Staff use ABCC charts to understand why the child might be using the behaviours and to develop a consistent strategy to respond to the behaviour and teach more appropriate skills.

### **Guidance for the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention**

There are very occasional times when children's behaviour may lead them to harm themselves or others. All staff must be familiar with the Policy for Physical Handling and

the circumstances when Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) can appropriately be used. This guidance is in accordance with guidance from Hampshire County Council. Staff are made aware of this as part of their induction, and it is reviewed annually with all staff. This policy is available to parents on request.

Supporting staff and parents who are dealing with challenging behaviour

Staff and parents need to know that the stress caused by dealing with persistent challenging behaviour is acknowledged and understood. Parents can be offered support outside Twyford playgroup from the Health Visiting Service, the Family Support Service, Educational Psychologist.) Staff will support each other within Twyford playgroup and discuss strategies for sharing the responsibilities for supporting particular children.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The Manager has responsibility for the overall monitoring and evaluation of behaviour and for reporting to the committee on behaviour issues. Where necessary the Manager will liaise with parents and other agencies where there are particular concerns.

The SENDCo is the named practitioner responsible for behaviour management and ensuring that all staff members receive regular training to approach supporting children's social and emotional development. The SENDCo also has responsibility for monitoring children's behaviour within the setting in liaison with staff. Any concerns will be reported to the Manager.

The playgroup staff are responsible for implementing the behaviour policy. They are also responsible for devising Behaviour plans, in conjunction with the SENDCo or Assistant SENDCO, for individual children when needed. Support and advice are available for all staff from the manager and SENDCo.

All members of staff need to be aware of the potential for 'bullying' behaviour. Any member of staff who is concerned about such behaviour must report it to the Manager.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

1. Behaviour issues are discussed between staff on a regular basis.
2. Specific areas of difficulty are identified and discussed at regular team meetings with the Manager.
3. Behaviour Support Plans are discussed with parents and reviewed after a set period of time
4. The manager monitors records made of incidents of restrictive physical intervention (RPI)

5. The manager reports to the Committee as part of the managers' Report.

**Exclusion**

Twyford playgroup recognises that very rarely, in very exceptional cases, some children's behaviour may present a very significant risk to other children. In these circumstances, more appropriate options will be discussed with parents and the committee.