



Behaviour

Our aim in Dandelions Pre-School and Out of School Club is to promote child and adult self-esteem to ensure a positive environment of learning, behaviour and relationships. We believe that it is important to encourage children to respect themselves, each other and their belongings. The person responsible for behaviour management is Tania Williams. However, all practitioners are trained and promote positive behaviour management.

We will achieve this by:

Encouraging High Self Esteem

Self-esteem is encouraged by:

- Showing all children that they are cared for and giving them affection.
- Praising them and saying what it is we like about what they have done or made.
- Ensuring that every child is successful.
- Recognising that every child is an individual and ensuring that we understand their needs.
- Developing good relationships with each child and encouraging them to have fun.
- Making sure there is more praise than correction.

We actively help the children to develop positive attitudes through the Personal, Social and Behaviour aspects of the curriculum. We use Circle Time and the Jigsaw programme to enhance the delivery of this aspect of the curriculum.

Modelling Good Behaviour

We will show respect for other adults and the children by:

- Looking at them when we are talking to them.
- Allowing them to make choices.
- Talking quietly and politely.
- Going to them, rather than calling across the room.
- Being very free with forgiveness.
- Giving a warning when a change of activity is about to occur.
- Using language that they can understand.

Encouraging Good Behaviour

Good behaviour is encouraged by:

- Agreeing and sticking to clear boundaries.
- Rewarding good behaviour with praise, use of body language (smile, thumbs up etc), stickers, golden coins in pre-school.

- Telling the children what they have done that is good.
- Giving as little attention as possible to bad behaviour.
- Keeping rules to a minimum.
- Warning of change of activity and using a timer as visual aid.
- Sitting on the carpet with the children.
- Sounding the drum when we want the children to stop and listen.
- Staff supporting each other in encouraging appropriate actions.

Our Rules

These are the rules that the children agreed:

- Be gentle.
- Kind hands.
- Listening ears.
- Sharing.
- Walking feet inside.
- Stop and listen when the drum sounds.
- Quiet voices.
- Be kind to your friend.

The rules are displayed in Dandelions and reviewed regularly with the children – usually daily at keyworker time.

We Try to Avoid Unacceptable Behaviour

- Telling the children what we expect.
- Being prepared for the day so that waiting times are kept to a minimum, explaining to children in keyworker time what activities are available.
- Having times for physical exercise and times for sitting quietly.
- Being prepared for likely times when there may be bad behaviour: hungry, tired and tidying up.
- Avoiding confrontation and instead:
- Tell the children what we want them to do, not what we don't want them to do.
- Say 'Yes, later', rather than 'No not now'.
- Offer choice, and then stick to it.
- Find a fun way.
- Explain consequences.

When There Is Unacceptable Behaviour

- Encourage the child to realise that what he/she has done is not acceptable behaviour and why.
- Use words that make them aware that it is the behaviour that is not acceptable not the child personally.
- Modelling saying sorry.
- Try to be distant where there is attention seeking behaviour.

If the Unacceptable Behaviour Continues

- Warn the child of removal from activity/play.

- Remove the child from the activity/play for a short period allowing time out.
- Welcome the child back into the group and offer them an interesting activity.

For out of school club children please see the Downlands School Behaviour Policy.

Under no circumstances will a child ever be shaken, smacked or in any other way physically punished or treated in a way that makes them feel humiliated. Children are not physically restrained except in the interest of safety. If this were to happen it will be recorded on an incident form from the child protection folder and signed by parents, then kept in the child's registration documents.

Children with Additional Needs

We are aware that specific areas of difficulty can affect behaviour profoundly. These could be:

- Delayed language development.
- Poor listening skills.
- Poor concentration.
- Physical difficulties.
- Obsessiveness.

Things to remember:

- Children take most notice of the last word they hear and that we should use positive language wherever possible (NOT don't do something, but do the thing that is wanted etc).
- Children will lose respect if voices are consistently raised, we must aim to talk quietly as much as possible, having ensured that we have eye contact.
- Only use 'Time Out' if it is essential.
- Try 'backward scrolling' so that a child with a short attention span is there for the end of an activity e.g. story time, only take out two or three pieces of puzzle). This will make the chances of success and completion much greater and enhance feelings of self worth.

These ideas may help, but where there are specific behaviour difficulties we will consult with Portage. Information can be found in the Inclusion folder.

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