

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY

Statement of intent

Our playgroup believes that the physical restraint of children should be avoided unless their behaviour is likely to cause immediate risk of harm to themselves or others. In such circumstances it must be the last course of action when all other attempts to diffuse the situation have failed.

Aim

The principle aim of any adult intervention is to support the child in order for them to benefit from early experiences aimed at promoting appropriate learning and development and to promote self-control appropriate to the child's age/stage of development

- Young children do not necessarily consciously plan their physical aggressive behaviour.
- Young children do not necessarily recognise danger to themselves.
- Young children are not necessarily aware of the impact and outcomes that their actions have on others.

What is physical intervention?

Physical Intervention is when adult intervention (interaction) with a child involves any physical contact resulting in restraint.

Physical restraint should be an act of care, and used with care, not an act of punishment, discipline or reactive aggression, and should only be used to contain behaviours which are likely to cause immediate risk to the child and/or other individuals.

Physical intervention should not result in any form of restraint unless it is necessary for one of the following reasons:

- To stop or prevent physical aggression towards others-adult or child
- To stop or prevent deliberate damage which may harm child or others
- To prevent dangerous situations
- To prevent a child or children from coming to harm (safeguarding)
- To support a child in learning self-control in any of the above situations.

In order to avoid having to use physical restraint the following procedure will be followed by all the Jellytots staff team:

- Give the child the opportunity to remove him/herself to another area to regain control of their behaviour.
- Move calmly and confidently
- Make simple clear statements

- Never threaten corporal punishment, or threaten any punishment which could adversely affect a child's well-being.
- Keep your voice quiet, firm and assured
- Lessen the threat of your presence by sitting down and allow the child some space
- Talk to the child all the time as long as it does not escalate the situation. (Staff are aware that sometimes children need quiet processing time. A trusted adult will stay close by for reassurance until they are ready to engage)
- Offer comfort, re-assurance and security
- Maintain eye-contact, if suitable for that child.
- When possible have help at hand
- Move other children away from the situation

In the event of restraint being unavoidable

- If possible, hold on to the child's clothes instead of skin
- Be sensitive and alert to the child's verbal communication and body language during the restraint so that control can be given back to the child as soon as possible
- Offer sensitive support to the child following the restraint and ensure that someone explains to him/her why the restraint was necessary.
- It is the responsibility of all staff members to follow set procedure and document the incident carefully on our Physical Intervention Incident Sheet, getting the child's parents/guardians to sign and date it.
- If Physical Intervention is required on a regular basis, a Risk Assessment will be put in place.

If parents have informed us beforehand of behaviours requiring physical intervention, or as a setting we feel that a child may require physical intervention, we will complete an individual Risk Assessment with advice and agreement from parents and relevant professionals.

Policy Amended 11th September 25 – R Cockbill Chairperson