



Little Cherries

Physical Intervention Policy

Staff are committed to ensuring that we deal professionally with all incidents involving inappropriate behaviour. We only use physical intervention (PI) as **a last resort** and in the following situations.

- Causing personal injury to or damage to the property of, any person including themselves.

Taking into account the circumstances of each incident, staff judge whether or not physical intervention would be reasonable or appropriate. We avoid an interaction that may cause escalation or provocation. Our responses always aim for de-escalation; if PI is used at all it is in the context of a respectful, supportive relationship with the child. We will always aim to ensure minimal risk of injury to children and staff.

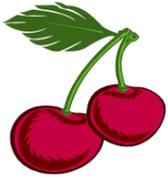
Our Practice in Response to Specific Incidents

- Since single-handed intervention increases the risks of injury to both parties and does not provide a witness, staff seek assistance from other members of staff as early as possible.
- All staff who become aware that another member of staff is intervening physically with a child provide a presence and offer support and assistance should this be required.
- Staff should call for help in emergencies. If working in a room where there are no other staff call for support immediately.
- A child's behaviour may be adversely affected by the presence of an audience. Wherever possible, the audience will be removed, or if this is not possible, the child will be removed from the audience. The child and member(s) of staff will withdraw to a quiet, but not completely private, place (e.g., two members of staff should be present or a door left open so that others are aware of the situation). Staff give relevant explanations to the other children to minimise possible upset.
- Staff will be aware of the need to tell the child being restrained, in a calm and gentle manner that the reason for the intervention is to keep the child and others safe.

Physical Intervention Approaches

The following approaches are regarded as reasonable in appropriate circumstances.

- **Standing between children;**
- **Blocking;**
- **Open mitten leading**
- **Closed mitten leading**
- **Shepherding, hand in the centre of the back with gentle guide**
- **Supportive hug/arm**
- **In more extreme circumstances, using appropriate restrictive holds,**



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The following approaches are not allowed

- **Anything impacting on breathing**
- **Anything causing pain**
- **A sense of violation**
- **Basket type hold**
- **Pulling and dragging.**

Recording

- The **Behaviour Record (ABC)** must be completed if a child's behaviour is challenging. It will provide information regarding possible causes and frequency of inappropriate behaviour as well as how the child responds to strategies used. This will also provide evidence, if needed in the future, to support an application for additional support.
- The **Individual Child Plan and Risk Assessment** - must be completed in partnership with parents if a child's behaviour is beginning to develop into a pattern. It helps staff to plan strategies that can be used to prevent behaviour escalating.
- The **Physical Intervention Log** - (kept in the corridor) must be completed to record in detail all incidents that result in non-routine interventions immediately following, or before the end of the day of the incident, by the staff member involved in the original incident. Any other members of staff involved (i.e. as witnesses or additional providers of support) also contribute to this record, signed and dated on the same day. These records are copied and kept in the child's file.
- **Physical Intervention Log and ABC's to be used in Routine Incidents with Children with Identified Needs** must be used to record routine incidents of physical intervention, for children with identified needs as set out in the child's Individual child Plan and Risk Assessment.
- A risk assessment must be completed in partnership with parents if the behaviour escalates, despite adopting strategies set out in the child's next steps or ICP, and physical intervention is still required, to ensure they are safe, suitable and appropriate for each child.

Post Incident Support

- We give the child time to become calm while staff continue to supervise him/her. When the child is calm we talk with him/her to find out why the incident happened.
- The manager is informed at the earliest possible opportunity of any incidents where physical intervention has been used. Each incident is reviewed to ensure that any necessary lessons are learned.
- We inform parents/carers of any incident involving physical intervention as soon as possible after the incident
- All members of staff involved will be allowed a period to debrief and recover from the incident. The SENCO will provide support to the member of staff involved.



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Arrangements for Informing Parents/Carers

Parents/carers will be informed of the setting's policy regarding physical intervention in the following ways:

- Staff, who work with particular children who have learning or physical disabilities and who have Individual Child Plans, may need to use specific techniques routinely to manage challenging behaviour. Such arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers in advance on an individual basis. All interventions will be routinely recorded.
- Parents/ carers will be informed after a non-routine incident where physical intervention is used with their child.

Monitoring use of Restrictive Physical Interventions

- The use of physical intervention in the Setting is monitored in order to help our staff learn from experience, promote the well being of children in our care.

Training Needs of Staff

- Relevant staff attends relevant training on physical intervention when necessary.
- Our induction procedures will make it clear to new members of staff the procedures regarding Physical Intervention.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Little Cherries

Held on: Monday 7th June 2021

Date to be reviewed: June 2022

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:

Name of signatory: Jennie Peacock

Role of signatory: Chairperson