



PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

At Little Owls Pre-School & Nursery, we believe good behaviour management to be an important stepping-stone in a child's development. We understand that all children have different needs, are of various ages, and come from different cultures and religions. However, we recognise that the children need to acquire basic social skills, to provide the foundation for the development of values and morals for the future.

An environment, which offers praise and support, whilst providing clear guidelines, helps the children understand what is expected of them. The children are encouraged through this environment to value and respect themselves.

Good behaviour and discipline are essential to ensure the smooth and safe running of the Pre-School. It is Pre-School policy to respect all children through active praise and encouragement. We endeavour to develop a sense of respect of adults and other children, as well as their environment, through play and social interactions.

A Child Who Demonstrates Good Behaviour Will:

- Develop good self-esteem and confidence.
- Respect him/herself and others.
- Play in harmony with his/her peers.
- Respect the property of others.
- Learn to share and cooperate.
- Learn to listen and respond to requests.
- Learn to accept the authority of adults.
- Observes the rules of the group, especially regarding safety.
- Expresses his/her feelings in an acceptable manner.

Unacceptable Forms of Behaviour

- Hurting or upsetting others
- Interfering with other children's play in a negative manner
- Destructive with property
- Using hurtful or abusive language
- Upsetting the running of the group
- Bullying, threatening or using any form of violent, abusive or racist behaviour

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The Role of the Adult Will be to:

- Act as a good role model by showing good manners, consideration and respect for others, including the children.
- Provide a prosocial environment where activities are stimulating and age appropriate.
- Be consistent and fair in their approach.
- Work in partnership with parents and other Pre-School staff.
- Be observant – remembering it is always better to prevent unacceptable behaviour than to correct it.
- Be aware there may be underlying problems when unacceptable behaviour occurs and always respond appropriately respecting confidentiality.
- Encourage children to develop self-discipline.
- Explain to the child why their behaviour is unacceptable in clear and specific language that is age appropriate.
- Gather knowledge of child development.
- Have a good relationship with the children.
- Be patient, consistent and to keep a sense of humour.
- Encourage the children to report any concerns to staff. Staff are to remind children of this to ensure they have confidence to speak out if needed.

Adults Must Recognise That:

- Young children are not able to sit still for long periods of time.
- Young children are naturally curious
- Young children have short attention spans
- Some degree of aggression is a normal part of development, this includes biting; hitting; pinching etc. Very young children cannot transfer feelings, they do not understand that they are hurting others if they bite etc;
- Lack of language can cause frustration that may lead to behavioural problems, particularly as understanding is always more advanced than speech.
- Change can be disturbing. This may be clearing away after activities; adults and children moving in and out of rooms, separation from a parent etc.
- Large busy groups can be difficult for the child to cope with. Children may react in different ways.
- Older children have a rich imagination and do not deliberately lie when they fail to tell the truth.

When Behaviour Needs Changing:

- Observe the child and gather information
- Define the behaviour that needs changing

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- Observe antecedent and consequence (what led up to the behaviour and what gains the child had)
- Manipulate the antecedent by changing the consequence
- Concentrate on one or two problems causing the most concern
- Ensure a totally consistent approach to tackling these problems
- Set out those rules which are absolutely necessary
- Contact Parents for support at home.

Achievement of Positive Behaviour

In order to achieve this:

- Golden rules set out as clear boundaries and expectations of all the Pre-School children..
- Carers will be informed of our expectations of them.
- All adults in the Pre-School will ensure that the rules are applied consistently so children have the security of knowing what to expect and can build up suitable habits of behaviour.
- All adults will provide a positive role model for the children with regard to friendliness, care, good manners and courtesy.
- Adults in the Pre-School will praise and endorse desirable behaviour such as kindness and willingness to share.
- We will take positive steps to avoid a situation in which children receive adult attention only in return for undesirable behaviours.

Informing Parents

Parents will of course be involved in management of their child's behaviour at all times. Staff may offer a parent to speak in private to discuss behaviour and offer genuine support. Staff will ask parents questions to gain further insight in why a child may be struggling with behaviour. Staff will not discuss other children or criticise the child or parents in any way. Levels of rewards and/or sanctions may be discussed.

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