

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Managing behaviour**

Providers are responsible for managing children's behaviour in an appropriate way.

### **The use of physical interventions at Peekaboo Childcare (Torquay) Limited**

#### **Policy statement**

Peekaboo Childcare (Torquay) Limited believe that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are understood, supported and met and where there are clear, fair and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour.

As children develop, they learn about boundaries, the difference between right and wrong, and to consider the views and feelings, and needs and rights, of others and the impact that their behaviour has on people, places and objects. The development of these skills requires adult guidance to help encourage and model appropriate behaviours and to offer intervention and support when children struggle with conflict and emotional situations. In these types of situations key staff can help identify and address triggers for the behaviour and help children reflect, regulate and manage their actions. In some cases physical interventions may be necessary.

Physical interventions intended to support a child:

- If a child is hurt or distressed adults will respond in a sympathetic and appropriate manner for a child who is of preschool age. This may include offering a physical comfort in the form of a cuddle, sitting the child on the adult's knee, removing the child, with an adult, to a quiet space for the child to calm down.
- It is recognised that some children when hurt or distressed dislike physical comfort. Adults will be aware of this and will not further distress a child by offering unwanted physical contact. In consultation with the parents the best way of assisting the child in such a situation will be adopted.
- At times the most appropriate and effective way of teaching a child a new skill may involve "physical prompting". Examples of this are: placing an adult hand over a child's hand when teaching them to hold a pencil, placing an adult hand over a child's hand in order to introduce the PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System), using a guiding hand on the child's back to reinforce understanding of an instruction such as "coat on" "wash hands" to indicate in which direction they need to go.
- Some children may need support to enable them to explore activities within the nursery. Occasionally a child will be supportively picked up and carried to a different area to be introduced to a new activity.
- Occasionally, for a child who dislikes physical contact, it has been found useful to use a lap strap when they are sitting in a chair. This acts as a visual and physical prompt, to encourage the child to sit briefly and engage in an activity. Our experience suggest that the children often find this calming, in the same way that they are often calmed when strapped into a car seat or push chair, and their ability to focus and attend improves. Under no circumstances is the strap used as a restraint or punishment. If a child showed distress at having the strap put on then it would not be used.

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### **Physical Interventions intended to prevent injury to the child or other children/adult**

DfES (now DFCS) guidelines (circular 10/98 and taking into account the Education Act 1996 section 550a) identify that a physical intervention can be used as a last resort in circumstances where:

- good classroom order is at risk;
- the child is at risk of harming/injuring themselves;
- the child is at risk of harming/injuring others.

At Peekaboo Childcare (Torquay) Limited a number of strategies to manage a child's behaviour such as: distraction, redirection, ignoring negative behaviours, and positive engagement will be employed before physical intervention. Physical intervention intended to control or restrain will only be used as a last resort and in very exceptional circumstances.

Any physical intervention deemed essential will use the minimum of force over the shortest period of time. These may include:

- Physically interposing between two children;
- Blocking a child's path if they are intent on hurting another child;
- Deflecting a hand or foot, or other body part that is intended to make contact with another child or adult;
- Shepherding a child away by placing a hand in the centre of their back;
- Moving a child, who is refusing to leave an area, by picking him up and taking him to the appropriate place. (For example from "inside" to "outside"). Moving a child to a quiet area, with the support of an adult, when his behaviour is disturbing the activities of others within the room.
- Using 'safe holding' techniques to hold/calm child and stop them from injuring themselves or other. This may include holding the child's arms and embracing the child in the adults arms.

After each session any incidents involving control or restraint will be recorded on an incident form or on a behaviour tracker and discussed with the parent. Strategies to be adopted to manage a child's behaviour and promote improved behaviour patterns will be discussed in detail to ensure consistency between adults.

Date reviewed last – April 2021

Next review date – April 2022

Written by – Alexandra Morton

Role – Managing Director

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**Peekaboo Childcare (Torquay) Limited**

**Physical Intervention Policy**

Dear Parents

Please find enclosed a copy of the physical intervention policy for Peekaboo.

This has been written to bring us in line with all the education providers across the country as required by the government.

We would be very grateful if you could read it and sign the slip attached.

Please rest assured that we will treat your children with the greatest of respect at all times. If you have any questions about the policy then please do not hesitate to contact us and we will discuss any issues with you.

Thank you for your assistance.

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My child .....attends Peekaboo Childcare.

I/we have read and accept the physical intervention policy as detailed for  
Peekaboo Childcare preschool.

Signed .....(parent/guardian)

Date .....