

**SUNNYSIDE  
NURSERY**



*Developing a brighter future*

**POLICY No: SNP003.1**

**TITLE: BEHAVIOUR POLICY AND PHYSICAL PROMPTS**

**VERSION: 02**

VERSION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE:	APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVIEW DATE
02	UPDATED TO BRING INLINE WITH NEW EYFS CHANGES	TARA (NURSERY MANAGER)	DEC 2023	DEC 2024

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## Legislation & Guidance

- SEND Code of Practice 2015
- Early years: guide to the 0 to 25 SEND code of practice 2014

## Definition of Physical Handling

- A “Physical Handling” is any physical contact with a child aimed at changing the child’s behaviour or aimed at keeping the child on a specific task. This physical prompt can also be used to support accessing the curriculum.
- Physical handling for other reasons for example, restraining a child to protect them from endangering themselves or others.

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## Aim of Policy

- This policy is to clarify when physically handling a young child is an “educational action” and what exactly is permissible.
- The policy will normally apply to the education of those children with severe or complex learning, communication difficulties and behavioural difficulties.
- The use of physical prompts or any physical handling of a child is not about punishment, it is about changing challenging behaviour.
- This policy does not replace the restraint policy or discipline policy of the setting but supplements it and modifies it in the light of the very special needs of a small group of children; those with severe or complex learning, communication or behavioural difficulties.

## Introduction

Sunnyside Nursery believe that children flourish best in an ordered environment in which everyone knows what is expected of them and children are free to develop their play and learning without fear of being hurt or hindered by anyone else. We aim to work towards a situation in which children can develop self-discipline and self-esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement. Sunnyside Nursery is responsible for managing children’s behaviour in an appropriate way (**EYFS 3.53**).

In order to achieve this:

- Rules governing the conduct of the group and the behaviour of the children will be discussed and agreed within the setting and explained to all newcomers, both children and parents.
- All adults in the setting will ensure that the rules are applied consistently, so that the children have the security of knowing what to expect and can build up useful habits of behaviour acknowledging the variety of cultural behavioural patterns.

## Behaviour Policy and Physical Prompts



- All adults will provide a positive model for the children with regard to friendliness, care and courtesy.
- Adults in the setting 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 challenging behaviour.

### **When children behave in unacceptable ways:**

Sunnyside Nursery will not give or threaten corporal punishment to a child and will not use or threaten any punishment which could adversely affect a child's well-being.

Sunnyside Nursery will take all reasonable steps to ensure that corporal punishment is not given by any person who cares for or is in regular contact with a child, or by any person living or working in the premises where care is provided.

During recruitment and as part of on-going training the nursery Manager (Tara Lougheed) will re-enforce positive ways to manage behavior and seek certified behavior management training.

Sunnyside Nursery acknowledges as a registered provider failure to meet these requirements commits an offence. Any individual who fails to meet this requirement has committed an offence and will be subject to disciplinary action.

A person will not be taken to have used corporal punishment (and therefore will not have committed an offence), where physical intervention (Physical intervention is where practitioners use reasonable force to prevent children from injuring themselves or others or damaging property) was taken for the purposes of averting immediate danger of personal injury to any person (including the child) or to manage a child's behaviour if absolutely necessary.

Sunnyside Nursery will keep a record of any occasion where physical intervention is used, and parents and/or carers must be informed on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable. **(EYFS 3.54)**

### In Action

- The following physical handling is acceptable but this is not an exhaustive list:
- Sitting behind a child both child and adult on floor with adults legs hooked over the child's legs
- Child on a chair adult sitting on a chair behind with adult's hands holding seat of child's chair between child's legs.
- Adult standing behind a child with adults hands on child's elbows or shoulders to guide them to adult requested activity.

### **More examples could include:**

- In order to move a child from an area of the room into another, two adults walk at each side of the child, each holding at the child's elbow and hand
- Getting a child to sit on a chair rather than the floor as this is easier
- Reduce prompts as necessary for each individual as per IEP or behavioural plan.

### Staff at Sunnyside Nursery will not:

- Use physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking will neither be used nor threatened.
- Use techniques intended to single out and humiliate individual children such as the 'naughty chair/area' or 'belittling' will not be used.
- Separate/isolate individual children from their group and adults as a form of punishment.
- Adults will not shout, or raise their voices in a threatening way.

### Staff at Sunnyside Nursery will:

- Start by trying to understand why the child is responding in the way they are.
- Take account of the parents' wishes and understanding of their child's difficulties.
- Ensure that any interventions used are appropriate to the child's developmental understanding, communication levels, social competency and dignity.
- Always have an agreed educational reason for the use of physical prompts, which they are willing to explain if asked.
- Try other methods of encouragement before physical prompts are used.
- Work with at least one other professional e.g. SEN Advisor to plan and agree any intervention that involves physical prompts.
- Have a very clear plan indicating what is to be achieved e.g. IEP/Behaviour plan.

### Application Of Policy

- Parental permission should be sought before physical methods are used but this should be done as part of a general discussion about aims for the child and methods of achieving them.
- A graduated response should be used in the form of Assess Plan Do Review as in the Code Of Practice 2014.
- Parents should sign to say they agree to the general plan for their child. Parents have the right to see plans and IEPs relevant to their child.
- Assessment and IEPs will contain a very brief explanation of and justification for the use of physical prompts. Staff may be asked to expand on this if more information is asked for.

### Additional Details

- It is justifiable to physically handle a child to make him/her do something that the adult in charge wants but he or she does not in the following circumstances:
- When working with a child with complex difficulties who would otherwise not learn.
- When working with a child with physical difficulties who would otherwise not have physical access to learning, after taking advice from therapy services and after consideration of the child's care plan.
- When working with a child who has behavioural difficulties that prevent them from learning.
- The physical intervention should always be as little as possible to get the child to co-operate and should be consistent with the practice of good "holds" and "restraints".
- Physical methods need to take into account the health and safety of both the staff concerned and the child.
- Wherever possible at least one adult should be in the room and near enough to be aware when physical intervention is used.
- Staff should have all been advised of the safe handling of children by the SEN Advisor.
- Other than in an emergency no staff member should physically handle a child without another member of staff observing.

**NOTE: All behaviour strategies are to be discussed with the child's parents and Sunnyside SEN Advisor before implementation.**

### Recording

- Use of physical prompts must be recorded; either as part of the assessment or IEP, in which case it is not necessary to record the individual use of prompts.
- Separately as individual incidents.

### **Promoting Positive Behaviour**

- Children who misbehave will be given one-to-one adult support (sometimes away from the group), this gives the child time to calm down and where appropriate talk through his/her actions and working towards a better pattern.
- In cases of serious undesirable behaviour, such as racial or other abuse, the unacceptability of the behaviour and attitudes will be made clear immediately, but by means of explanations rather than personal blame.
- In any case of undesirable behaviour, it will always be made clear to the child or children in question that it is the behaviour and not the child that is unwelcome.
- Adults in the setting will themselves be aware of, and respect, a range of cultural expectations regarding interactions between people.
- Any behaviour issues will be handled in a developmentally appropriate fashion, respecting individual children's understanding and maturity and this will be regularly reviewed.
- Recurring problems will be tackled by the child's key-person and Management, in partnership with the child's parents, using objective observation records:
  1. Behaviour chart – key persons identifies the undesirable behavior and uses strategies to swap undesirable behavior for desirable behavior.
  2. S.T.A.R chart identifies the root of the undesirable behavior at nursery and in the home. Key persons, parents and outside agencies work together to remove undesirable behavior.
- Adults will be aware that some kinds of behaviour may arise from a child's special needs and may require the involvement of the outside agencies with parent's permission.
- Parents will also be informed of any undesirable behaviour that raises concerns and/or repeated negative behaviour. Parents will be required to sign a form in recognition of this.
- We will listen to parents and include other agencies if necessary with parents' consent; if parental consent is refused we will seek support from other agencies without identifying the child or family. However, if the need and or safety of the child are put at risk we will follow our Safeguarding procedures.
- We will use strategies that parents are applying at home in conjunction with the nurseries strategies: such as: favourite toy, speaking in a soothing but firm tone, reward efforts etc.
- The designated Behaviour Management Persons for Sunnyside Nursery is Tara Lougheed & Shalina Miah.

**This policy is checked annually and formally reviewed at least every 3 years and/or revised as required by legislation, government guidance and/or feedback from service users.**

This policy supports all other policies and must be read together with the following policies:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Disciplinary Policy
- Inclusion & Equal Opportunities Policy
- SEN Policy

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This policy was adapted in December 2023 and due for review in December 2024

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