



EYFS PHYSICAL HANDLING POLICY

Date of Policy	September 2023
Member of staff responsible	Sarah Reynolds
Role	Head of Early Years
Last Review	Significant changes

This policy applies to Sandcastles Nursery including 'early,' 'late' and 'wrap around care' and all staff members, volunteers and visitors in Sandcastles Nursery.

(Please note that the term 'parents' also relates to carers and those with legal guardianship of children)

All the adults at Sandcastles Nursery aim to help children take responsibility for their own behaviour. We do this through:

- Positive role modelling
- Planning a range of interesting and challenging activities
- Having appropriate boundaries and expectations
- Positive reinforcement

If required we will utilise 'physical handling' of which there are three main types:

1. Positive Handling:

- Giving guidance to children (eg. how to hold scissors safely/carry chairs etc)
- For emotional support
- Physical care (eg first aid/nappy changing etc)

2. Physical Intervention:

- Store cupboards are kept closed/locked
- Gates kept closed when children outside

3. Restrictive Physical Intervention:

- Using physical force to restrict a child's movements.

Principles for the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention:

Adults at Sandcastles Nursery will only use 'restrictive physical intervention' in extreme circumstances and only when we believe it is in the child's best interest i.e. if a child is in danger of hurting him/herself, other others or of causing serious damage.

It is used to restore safety, both for the child and those around him or her. Minimal force will be used for as limited a period as possible according to the circumstances.

Restrictive Physical Intervention may be used when:

- a child is injuring themselves or others
- a child is damaging property
- we believe that injury or damage is about to happen
- a child attempts to leave the Nursery without their key person or a member of staff
- there is an individual plan which includes this type of intervention.

Restrictive Physical Intervention will be used:

- By an adult who knows the child well (ideally their key person.)
- In an emergency, by any staff member

When Restrictive Physical Intervention is used we will aim:

- For side-by-side contact with the child
- For no gap between the adult and the child
- To keep our backs straight
- To hold the child by "long" bones (not joints)
- To avoid restricting the child's ability to breath
- To avoid lifting the child

Any use of 'restrictive physical intervention' will be recorded and monitored on an incident form. Staff members should record as much detail as possible; including the date, time, any names of other staff members present, why intervention occurred and how it was dealt with. Staff members and parents must sign. The form should be taken to the main school office where it will be stored securely and confidentially in the child's file.

In the event that 'restrictive physical intervention' is utilized, parents of the child/children will be informed of this on the same day by the relevant staff member and the matter will be discussed further.

Any complaints by either the child, staff member, visitor or parents will be dealt with through our Complaints Policy.

Any form or threat of corporal punishment or a punishment which could adversely affect a child's well-being is never used.