



Peter's Patch  
Forest School - Day Care - After School Club

## Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy

Peter's Patch believes that children have a right to express their emotions and communicate through their behaviour. We also acknowledge that this behaviour may not always be positive.

As practitioners, it is our role to develop good relationships with the children in our care, to learn their daily behaviours and be able to notice when there is a change. These relationships also help us to understand any negative behaviour which may occur and respond to it appropriately.

### How do we promote positive behaviour?

- Always using positive language around and towards the children and staff
  - Praising children and staff for the positive things they do
  - Using manners at every opportunity and encouraging others to do so
- Predicting times when behaviour may become challenging for individuals and putting measures in place to avoid or contain it
  - Having a quiet space and promoting its use when children become overwhelmed
  - Acknowledging the requests of the children and explains why something isn't possible - e.g. "I understand you would like to paint but right now we are going outside - when we come back in we can paint."
- Creating and enforcing simple, clear rules which are age appropriate for the children in the room
  - Acknowledging achievements and involvement from the children with praise and encouragement
  - Role modelling positive behaviour ourselves in every situation

### How do we respond to unwanted behaviour?

- Remain calm, get down to the child's level and gain their attention

For older children:

- Ask the child what has happened and why they are behaving that way - especially in a situation with another child. We need to know what has happened to respond to the situation fairly.



## Peter's Patch

Forest School - Day Care - After School Club

- If the child is not ready to talk, they may wish to use the quiet area provided until they are calm enough to chat with a staff member. There should always be a staff member nearby during this process.
- If the child is willing to talk, they should be moved away from the situation to allow the conversation to happen away from the other children. In a calm fashion, discuss what happened, why they behaved in the way they did and discuss other behaviours or responses they could try next time. The aim is to help the child understand that their behaviour was not appropriate in the situation.
- If the child has hurt another child, they should be encouraged to make the situation better - we do not force children to apologise unless they want to. There are alternatives to saying sorry - giving a hug, holding a cold compress etc. Children need to learn what being sorry means otherwise it just becomes a word that means nothing.
- The child should then be encouraged to take part in a different activity away from the conflict area.

For younger children:

- Gently distract the child and engage them in alternative play away from the conflict area
- Using simple words, talk to the child about kind hands etc depending on what behaviour was displayed
- Stay with the child until they are calm and engaged in play again

In all instances we must remember that behaviour is a child's way of communicating with us. It is vital that we take the time to establish the needs of the child in that situation. Often when we can meet those need, the behaviour subsides. We must aim to promote the children's confidence, self-esteem, self-control and tolerance at every opportunity.

### How do we respond to continuous unwanted behaviour?

- Discussions with parents to ensure there is no change in circumstances at home which may be causing the behaviour - a house move, pregnancy or visiting relative may be enough to alter the child's behaviour in nursery
- Introducing an ABC chart to track the unwanted behaviour and establish any pattern that may be present
- Further discussions with parents around the findings of the ABC chart followed by the formulation of a plan to manage and reduce the behaviour going forward



## Peter's Patch

Forest School - Day Care - After School Club

- -This plan should be shared with all members of the team in the room and management.

### What happens if the behaviour does not improve?

If we feel we have explored every option to manage the unwanted behaviour whilst working closely with the parents / carers of the child, we reserve the right to ask the parents to remove the child from the nursery. This may be on a temporary or permanent basis.

We strive only to do this in situations where the child in question poses a danger to themselves or other children in the nursery.

### Important to remember:

We do not use physical punishment within the nursery - smacking, hitting or physical restraint is not an appropriate response to unwanted behaviour. Physical restraint may only be used if the child is at risk of hurting themselves or others during the behaviour.

We do not use time out or isolation methods to manage behaviour. We must never degrade, humiliate, or frighten a child.

It is important to remember that a change in behaviour could indicate abuse. If you have any concerns that a child may be suffering abuse, you **MUST** notify a designated safeguarding officer as soon as possible. You must present facts and not opinions.

We must respect and understand cultural values in relation to behaviour, where this does not bring harm to the child or others.