



# Abbey Wood Grange Day Nursery

## Physical Intervention Policy

All staff at Abbey Wood Grange aim to help the children take responsibility for their own behavior in various different ways, for example:

- Positive role modeling
- Planning a range of interesting and challenging activities
- Setting and enforcing appropriate boundaries and expectations
- Providing positive feedback
- We work with parents to build their understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of safeguarding all our children.

However, there are very occasional times when a child's behavior presents particular challenges that may require physical intervention.

There are three main types of physical handling:

- Positive handling – the positive use of touch is normal part of human interaction. Touch might be appropriate in a range of situations:
  - Giving guidance to children (such as how to hold a paintbrush or when climbing)
  - Providing emotional support (such as placing an arm around a distressed child)
  - Physical care (such as first aid or toileting).
- Physical Intervention – Physical Intervention can include mechanical and environmental means such as high chairs, stair gates or locked doors. These may be appropriate ways of ensuring children's safety.
- Restrictive Physical Intervention – This is when a member of staff has to use physical force intentionally to restrict a child's movement against his or her will. In most cases this will be through the use of the adult's body rather than mechanical or environmental methods.

Our staff exercise appropriate care when using touch and implementing means of physical intervention.

Restrictive physical handling will be used in the context of positive behavior management approaches.

We will only use restrictive physical intervention in extreme circumstances. It is not the preferred way of managing children's behavior and will only be used in the context of a well established and well implemented positive framework.

We will do what we can to avoid using restrictive physical intervention.

Restrictive physical intervention will only be used when staff believe that it is in the child's best interest; their needs are paramount.

When children are in danger of hurting themselves, others, or of causing significant damage, staff have the responsibility to intervene.

When restrictive physical intervention is used, it is used within the principle of reasonable minimal force in proportion to the circumstances. Our staff will use as little restrictive force as necessary in order to maintain safety. Staff will use this for as short a period as possible.

A member of staff who knows the child well, this is the person most likely to be able to use other methods to support the child and keep them safe without using restrictive physical intervention, in an emergency all staff could use it.

Any use of restrictive physical intervention in our setting is consistent with the principle of reasonable minimum force.

Our staff will:

- Aim for side-by-side contact with the child.
- Aim for no gap between the adult's and the child's body
- Aim to keep the adults back as straight as possible
- Hold children by 'long' bones, i.e. avoid grasping at joints where pain and damage are most likely
- Ensure that there is no restriction to the child's ability to breathe
- Avoid lifting children.

The use of restrictive physical intervention will be documented in our incident book within 24 hours of the incident. The nursery manager and the parent/carer will be advised on the same day.

It is distressing to be involved in a restrictive physical intervention, whether as the person doing the holding, the child being held or someone observing or hearing about what happened. Support will be given to all those who were involved.

Monitoring of the use of restrictive physical intervention will help identify trends and therefore help with our ability to meet the needs of the children more effectively. Support can also be obtained from our Area SENCO where it is required.

Where anyone (child, carer, staff member or visitor) has a concern, this should be dealt with in line with our complaints policy.