Promoting Positive Behaviour

Staff at the preschool aim to create an environment that encourages and supports and promotes good, positive behavior, the children who attend the setting are encouraged to develop self-discipline and respect for each other's needs.

Staff use positive methods of guidance either through redirection, the anticipating and the removal of potential problems alongside positive reinforcement and encouragement. Negative comments and direct criticism will not be tolerated.

Staff act as positive role models to the children, demonstrating positive interactions and appropriate behaviors, to support the children's learning and understanding in their Personal, Emotional and Social development.

Our handling of behavior is consistent and developmentally appropriate, respecting each individual child's level of understanding and maturity. Staff have training in effective behavioral management techniques; this training is regularly updated.

There is no physical punishment, or threat of punishment used here at any time in preschool.

We observe that children are entering our nurseries with a vastly different set of experiences than previous generations. As a result, we are seeing more children with:

- **Bigger Emotional Needs:** Higher levels of anxiety and lower levels of resilience.
- **Language Delays:** A direct correlation between a child's inability to communicate and their "acting out" physically.
- **Sensory Needs:** Overstimulated children in environments (which includes ICT devices) that are often too loud or cluttered.

Children are guided and supported by staff, to enable them to manage their behavior in a way they can understand, for example a disruptive or aggressive child may be removed from the situation, calmed and spoken to in an appropriate manner and helped to understand, why their behavior was unacceptable and how it impacted on others, the child can then be reunited with the other group members once they feel settled.

Understanding why is important as every behaviour has a trigger, so we will reflect and consider to root of the behaviour.
*Is the child hungry?
*Tired?
*Feeling overwhelmed, perhaps by the noise or the sensory overload?
*Are they struggling with a transition?

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We will look for, and try to eliminate the root cause, and we will consider how we manage

1. **Modelling:** Are we using the same language and behaviour that we expect from our children?
2. **Routines:** Are our transitions (like tidying up or moving to lunch) handled calmly with song, story, or visual cues rather than loud instructions and confusion? And can we manage our transitions more appropriately, in order that all our children feel more supported and less anxious.
3. **The Key Person Role:** Is the bond between the child and their key person strong enough to de-escalate a situation before it boils over?

Whilst we cannot expect our young children to self-regulate, we can teach our young children that their actions have consequences, as this is crucial. Because it helps them to understand **cause-and-effect relationships**, which fosters responsible decision-making and accountability.
This understanding lays the foundation for critical thinking and empathy as children move on to learn to anticipate the outcomes of their choices.
Children are supported by staff to understand the significance of their behaviors and consider the impact that their actions have had on the victim.
We encourage our children to apologise (or make amends) for their actions if the occasion arises and their behavior is considered to be inappropriate. Various methods can be supported such as; BSL signing sorry, making a card or picture to give to the person harmed by their actions, positive physical gestures e.g. hugs or verbally saying sorry are all methods that can be encouraged.

The sorts of behavior considered unacceptable by the preschool from a child is for example, biting, bullying, kicking, smacking, and causing physical or mental harm or verbal abuse to another. ***These matters will always be promptly and swiftly addressed.***

Staff at the preschool promote the **fundamental British Values**, which are the rules of **democracy**, the **rule of law**, **individual liberty**, and **mutual respect** and **tolerance** for those of different faiths and beliefs. These 'rules' lay the foundations for kind tolerant behavior and mutual respect for others is at the heart of these values.
We teach our children to learn that their behaviors have an effect on their own rights as well as those of others.

'A key part of our plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background.'

Lord Nash

The children attending our setting are all aged between 2 and 8+ years plus, and part of our role as carers to our young children is to role model and demonstrate kindness, comfort, care and concern.

We do this in a range of ways throughout the day;

- Meeting and greeting our children and their parents in a friendly manner
- Through our positive conversations and communications
- Friendly gestures and positive body language
- Appropriate physical contact i.e. cuddles, hugs.

All our staff have completed Disclosure and Baring checks and have been approved and are considered safe to work with children. Staff use safe techniques during any physical contact with the children, to ensure that they are both protected and clear in the intent for the actions they are taking.

Together with strong teamwork and healthy professional relationships with our parents and carers, alongside appropriate staff/child ratios and clear working practices. We can ensure that our children are able to develop a strong sense of well-being and feel supported within a safe and nurturing environment.

If you are worried about your child's behaviour, there is lots of support and guidance on the Just one Norfolk site https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/emotional-health/children-young-peoples-emotional-health/

Or you can contact Just One Number to talk to a health professional for advice and support. You can contact the Healthy Child Service team by calling the **Just One Number** on 0300 300 0123 or texting **Parentline** on 07520 631 590**.** The opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (excluding bank holidays).