

Challenging behaviour – our methods

Policy Statement

At Bunyan Preschool the safety and well-being of all children in our care are of paramount importance. We recognise that challenging behaviour incidents such as hitting, pushing, biting etc. can occur among preschool children, and it is our responsibility to respond effectively and appropriately to address such situations. This policy outlines the methods and procedures that our staff members will follow when dealing with a challenging incident at our preschool

Aims:

- To ensure the safety and well-being of all children in our care.
- To promote positive behaviour and social development among preschool children.
- To establish clear and consistent procedures for addressing challenging behaviour incidents.
- To communicate openly and effectively with parents or carers regarding any behaviour incidents and their resolution.

Definition of Challenging Behaviour:

Challenging behaviour may include, but is not limited to:

- **Physical Aggression:** Hitting, biting, kicking, scratching, or pushing.
- **Verbal Aggression:** Shouting, swearing, name-calling, or threatening.
- **Non-Compliance:** Refusing to follow instructions, ignoring adult requests, or disrupting activities.
- **Disruptive Behaviours:** Throwing objects, screaming, or making loud noises.
- **Self-Harm:** Behaviours such as head-banging or other forms of self-injury.
- **Withdrawal or Avoidance:** Withdrawing from social interactions, refusing to participate in activities, or hiding.

Challenging behaviours can stem from various factors, including emotional distress, communication difficulties, sensory overload, unmet needs, or developmental delays. Identifying and understanding the underlying causes of these behaviours is crucial for addressing them effectively

Our Methods:

Biting incident:

- when a biting incident occurs, a member of staff will intervene immediately to prevent further harm. The safety and well-being of the child who was bitten will be the top priority.
- the child who bit will be gently separated from the child who was bitten. A member of staff will provide comfort and care to the child who was bitten, attending to any injuries as necessary.
- a member of staff will speak to the child who bit in a calm and gentle manner, getting down to their eye level.
- simple language will be used to explain that biting is not an acceptable behaviour and that it can hurt others.
- the child who bit will be asked if they can share why they bit, encouraging them to express their feelings or frustrations.

Physical aggressions such as hitting, kicking, pushing

- A member of staff will respond immediately to any physical aggression incident to ensure the safety of all children involved. The child who was physically aggressive will be separated from the affected child, and any necessary medical attention will be provided.
- The well-being of the child who was physically harmed will be the top priority. A member of staff will provide comfort, care, and any necessary first aid to the injured child.
- A member of staff will communicate with the child who displayed aggression in a calm and age-appropriate manner.
- Simple language will be used to explain that physical aggression is not acceptable behaviour and can hurt others.
- The child will be encouraged to express their feelings or frustrations verbally and to use words to communicate.

In certain situations, considering the nature of a child's physical aggression, a member of staff may ask a child/children to sit on a chair as a calming and reflective measure. Certain situations in which a child may be asked to sit on a chair to calm down and think include:

- When a child has engaged in physical aggression during a conflict with another child, they may be guided to sit and reflect on their actions to help prevent further aggression.
- If a child becomes overwhelmed or overstimulated during group activities or free play and exhibits physical aggression as a result, sitting on a chair can provide a quiet space for them to calm down.
- Some children struggle with regulating their emotions and may resort to physical aggression when frustrated, anxious, or upset. Sitting on a chair can be a strategy to help them learn to manage their emotions.
- In situations where a child's physical aggression poses a safety risk to themselves or others, having them sit on a chair temporarily can help de-escalate the situation and maintain a safe environment.
- Encouraging a child who has displayed physical aggression to sit and think about their actions can be an opportunity to teach empathy, helping them understand how their behaviour affects others and why it's important to control aggressive impulses.

In each of these scenarios, asking a child to sit on a chair provides a moment for them to calm down, reflect on their behaviour, and regain self-control, ultimately promoting positive social and emotional development.

Procedures:

Members of staff will help the child/children to learn alternative ways to communicate or cope with their emotions, such as using words, gestures, or asking for help. Positive reinforcement will be used to praise and reward the child when they exhibit appropriate behaviour and refrain from unwanted behaviour.

All members of staff will adhere to consistent rules and consequences for challenging behaviour, ensuring that all staff members are informed and are on the same page regarding how to respond to all incidents.

- Increased supervision during playtime and other potentially challenging situations will be implemented to prevent future incidents. Close observation of the child who is showing challenging behaviour and the child who was a victim.
- Parents or guardians of both the child who bit and the child who was bitten will be promptly informed about the biting incident.
- Information about how the situation was handled at preschool will be shared, and strategies for consistency at home will be discussed.

- Members of staff will closely observe the child who is showing unwanted behaviour to identify any patterns or triggers. Each incident will be documented, including details about what led up to it.
- A members of staff will help the child understand the impact of their actions on others, encouraging them to apologise or make amends to the child who was hurt to foster empathy and social development.
- If unwanted behaviour persists despite interventions, an individualized behaviour plan may be developed for the child, including specific strategies and goals for addressing the child's behaviour.
- If the behaviour continues or escalates, advice from a child development centre may be sought to provide further insights and strategies tailored to the child's specific needs.

Reducing Child Hours Due to Safety Concerns and Challenging Behaviour:

At Bunyan Preschool our primary goal is to create a safe, nurturing, and conducive learning environment for all children in our care. We strive to promote the well-being and development of each child while ensuring the safety and security of the entire preschool community. However, there may be instances where we encounter challenges related to a child's behaviour or safety concerns that require additional attention and intervention.

To ensure the safety of all children and maintain a positive learning environment, **Bunyan Preschool reserves the right to reduce the number of hours a child attends preschool under the following circumstances:**

1. **Challenging Behaviour:** If a child displays persistent challenging behaviour that compromises the safety and well-being of themselves or others, the preschool staff, in consultation with parents or guardians, will assess the situation and may recommend a reduction in the child's hours. This decision will be made with the best interests of the child and the preschool community in mind, aiming to provide the child with additional support and attention outside of the preschool environment.
2. **Safety Concerns:** In the rare event that a child's needs and behaviour pose a significant safety risk that cannot be adequately addressed within our regular preschool hours, the preschool management, in collaboration with parents or guardians, will consider reducing the child's attendance. This will be done as a precautionary measure to safeguard the well-being of all children and staff at Bunyan Preschool.

3. In some circumstances, parents may be contacted and asked to collect their child before the end of the session if their behaviour poses immediate challenges that cannot be managed safely during the session.

The decision to reduce a child's hours will always involve open communication with the child's parents or guardians. We believe that a collaborative approach, where parents and preschool staff work together, is essential to meet the child's needs effectively. Our team will provide regular updates, progress reports, and strategies to support the child's development and behaviour management, even during reduced hours.

Please note that any decision to reduce a child's hours will be reviewed regularly and discussed with parents or guardians. Our aim is to create a safe and inclusive learning environment, and we will continuously work towards finding the most appropriate solutions for the child's well-being and development.

At Bunyan Preschool we are committed to maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of all children and families. Personal information regarding behavioural concerns or safety issues will be handled with the utmost discretion and in compliance with all relevant privacy laws and regulations.

We believe that every child has the right to a safe and supportive learning environment. By implementing this policy, we aim to ensure the safety and well-being of all children attending Bunyan Preschool