

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Policy & Procedure

Guidelines

Children need structure within which they can be free to choose and experiment. Unlimited freedom puts too much responsibility on children - they need easily understood boundaries. Our simple ground rules help with boundaries.

Children appreciate explanations of and suggestions for alternative ways to act, even if they appear to be ignoring them. Sowing positive seeds always benefits in time.

Direction and instructions regarding behaviour given to the children must always be followed up with actions. Children will only begin to trust adults around them if those adults do what they say they will do. Consistently following through will eventually make a child realise that the staff is genuine and they will keep their promise and follow through.

By positively promoting good behaviour through good role modelling, valuing cooperation and a caring attitude we hope to ensure that children progress towards being responsible members of society.

Little Gems' Policy

- The Nursery believes in role modelling and promoting positive behaviour at all times.
- We aim to encourage self-discipline, consideration and respect for others, for self and the property within the Nursery environment.
- Children who behave inappropriately, whether by physically abusing another child or adult e.g. by kicking or hitting, or verbal rudeness, may be removed from the group. Unless the incident is considered minor a report will be made, kept in the child's file and the child's parents informed. The child who has been upset will be comforted and the adult will confirm to that child that the other child's behaviour was not acceptable. It is important to acknowledge that a child can feel angry or upset and that it is the behaviour we find unacceptable, not the child.
- How a particular type of behaviour is handled will depend on the child and the circumstances. In some cases a child will be removed from an activity until he or she has calmed down and had time to reflect on his or her behaviour. The practitioner involved would remain with the child and re-direct the child towards other activities in order to diffuse the situation; quietly observing the practitioner being involved with other children can also be sufficient.
- Children will know that they have equal rights and that those rights will be protected. They will have explained to them the importance of sharing with other children, in taking turns etc. We feel small enjoyable social graces groups best do this.
- Parents will be informed if their child is persistently unkind to others or if their child has been upset. Parents may be asked to see the Principal to discuss their child's behaviour, so that any difficulties can be worked through together to ensure consistency between home and nursery.

- Children must be encouraged to see that uncooperative, unkind or spiteful behaviour is not acceptable at **Little Gems Montessori Nursery**. We want the children to understand that certain actions are right and that others are wrong.

When children first start at nursery, which is often their first experience of adapting to a wider community, they do not come already stamped with an official 'perfect' label. They can sometimes exhibit undesirable and uncooperative behaviours, such as pinching, pushing, biting etc. In this event, some children will need time to learn the rules of being part of a group. In the first instance we will take every step to prevent such behaviours, and try to encourage positive behaviour alongside nurturing self-esteem.

However, if the persistent behaviour of a child is such that the safety and well-being of other children is compromised or constantly affected, the following step will inevitably follow:

Exclusion

In **extreme or unacceptable** situations, the nursery Principal in conjunction with senior and other staff members, may decide to exclude a child for a specific period of time or indefinitely. However, **this is unlikely to happen**, as there is usually a way of enhancing self-esteem to enable change to take place, which would always be the preferred option. When this proves impossible, the nursery will discuss the situation in detail and privately with the child's parents before explaining the reason for such a step and, only where necessary, informing other parents.