



## **Promoting Positive Behaviour**

At Westlands Nursery we aim to enable all children to develop confidence, self-esteem and a positive attitude towards their own learning and towards others. We aim to ensure that all practitioners work in an environment where there is mutual respect, and where there is a good understanding of the developmental needs of children aged 0-5 years old. We believe working closely with parents/carers enables a consistent approach to behaviour management. We believe that behaviour is learnt, we can therefore teach children to be kind through practitioners respecting each other and acting as positive role models.

Practitioners will;

- Use positive strategies or distraction techniques for handling challenging behaviour.
- Recognise the individuality of all children and understand that some behaviours are normal in young children. For example, biting.
- Acknowledge and praise behaviour such as kindness and willingness to share.
- Support all children in developing a sense of belonging in our group, so that they feel safe, valued and welcome.
- Work in partnership with parents by communicating openly, sharing and supporting strategies between home and nursery.
- Provide a key person system enabling practitioners to build a strong and positive relationship with children and their families.
- Never use physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking or threaten children with these.
- Only use physical restraint, such as holding, to prevent physical injury to children or adults and/or serious damage to property.
- Not shout or raise their voices in a threatening way to respond to children's behaviour.
- Always make clear to the child/children that it is the behaviour and not the child that is unwelcome.
- Make every effort to identify any behavioural concerns and the causes for that behaviour
- Keep written records, which will be shared for parents for any recurring behaviour.

We recognise that strategies for supporting young children will need to be developmentally appropriate. We understand that young children are unable to regulate their own emotions, such as fear, anger or distress and require sensitive adults to support them.

Practitioners should remain calm and patient, offering comfort to intense emotions, helping children to manage their feelings and where appropriate, talk about them to help resolve issues and promote understanding.

Some children may go through a 'biting phase'. Biting is a way of communicating for children that are not able to verbally express their feelings. In cases of recurring biting incidents a 'biting log' should be completed so that practitioners can identify the triggers and anxieties the child may be experiencing. All practitioners will be given a copy of the 'Why do Children Bite Handout' from [www.kelsi.com](http://www.kelsi.com) which shares information and techniques for dealing with unwanted biting behaviour.

In the event where a child's behaviour involves aggressive actions towards other children and practitioners, for example, hitting, kicking etc. The manager should complete risk assessments identifying any potential triggers or warning signs, ensuring other children and practitioners safety at all times. In these incidents, the other children in the room will be moved away for their safety and parents may be called.

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