



Bo-Peep Corner Pre-School Playgroup

Behaviour Management Policy

The words “behaviour management” can provoke many different responses. It may be assumed to mean that the children will be over strictly controlled. In fact, it is best explained as the way order is maintained, to allow everyone maximum freedom to play and enjoy, with safety for all and without interfering with anyone else's freedom or enjoyment. In our Playgroup, the rules are simple and are primarily for the children's safety. Children can understand the reasons behind sensible rules and like most adults, they want to be accepted and liked, therefore they do not disobey just for fun.

There are many reasons why a child may be disruptive e.g. boredom, different standard of discipline between playgroup and home, frustration, new or unusual activities, unhappiness, perhaps something is happening or has happened at home. These are but a few reasons and we must always remember to try to find out why a child is disruptive in order to help that child work through it.

Bearing the above points in mind, the following procedures are carried out in our centre:-

1. At our centre, the staff have an agreed approach to child management. There must be a consistency of policy where children's behaviour is concerned and our staff need to agree on how to handle all behaviour problems. Hence the benefit of regular Staff Meetings, which may include discussion on specific behaviour problems and the action that is required.
2. We enforce the necessary rules with firmness, consistently and on a one-to-one basis.
3. Our staff never shout across the playroom at a child unless there is a clear and imminent danger of injury for whatever reason.
4. At Bo-peep, we never humiliate a child or make a child feel "small".
5. If the inappropriate behaviour involves a particular activity, we then remove the child, who has previously been warned, from that activity explaining why this is being done e.g. if a child throws sand around, we first say "No, we don't throw sand around in playgroup, it may go in someone's eyes and that is very sore". If the child persists in doing this, we would remove him/her from the sand and again explain why.
6. We always make clear that it is the behaviour we are correcting, not labelling the child as "bad".

7. If a child's behaviour continues to be inappropriate, we would remove them from play, explaining why we are doing so and that they may not return to play for a few minutes. A member of staff will then remain with the child for those few minutes.
8. If the behaviour continues, the Playgroup Supervisor would then have a private word with the parent, to keep them informed of the situation and to see if anything may be happening outside Playgroup to cause it.
9. On rare and exceptional circumstances, especially if the behaviour was effecting the other children and after all other options had been exhausted, the child would be asked to leave Playgroup.

If children are not allowed to do something, they must know why. The disciplines we impose on them, both outside and inside the home, must become so acceptable that they will eventually operate from inside the child as self discipline. Children who know where the line is drawn are usually more secure and we hope at Bo-Peep, to encourage good behaviour by praising the child, thus rewarding good behaviour and encouraging it.