



## **Bo-Peep Corner Pre-School Playgroup**

### **Anti-Bullying Policy**

#### **Principles**

At Bo-Peep Corner Playgroup, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all children so that they can learn through play in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

#### **Aims and Objectives**

Bullying is wrong and damaging to children & adults. Our centre proactively implements policies and procedures to prevent this. We aim to deliver a safe and secure environment where children can play & learn without fear or anxiety. This policy aims to produce a consistent response to any bullying incidents that may occur and we aim to make all those connected with our playgroup aware of our opposition to bullying. We do not tolerate any kind of bullying and support all parties involved to gain a full understanding of our ethos.

#### **Rough and Tumble Play**

We acknowledge the need to recognise rough and tumble play as distinct from inappropriate or aggressive behaviour. Television or films, which include superheroes, often influence young children and they will mimic this behaviour through their play. We use the following strategies to manage this kind of play:-

- Recognise that this is pro-social play rather than aggressive.
- Set boundaries for the play.
- Use planning opportunities to discuss the concept of 'good' and 'bad'.
- Support the play to find alternative solutions to 'weapon' play, exploring different scenarios.

#### **Hurtful Behaviour**

Very young children are 'egocentric', which means that they put their own feelings before others and even the most considerate child will have the occasional outburst due to frustration, anger or over exuberance. We acknowledge that this is a developmental area that needs to be nurtured and supported and that very young children usually do not intentionally wish to cause hurt. If hurtful comments are made, our strategies are:-

- To recognise that very young children are not always able to manage their own feelings and deliver them appropriately.
- Assist in this management to support their development & understanding.
- Offer support to both parties and to discuss the issues through play, story time or circle time activities.

#### **The Role of Parents**

- Parents, who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child might be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact the centre immediately.
- Parents have a responsibility to support the centre's anti-bullying policy and actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the playgroup.
- Parents are expected to develop their child's social skills at all times, in support of the playgroup's ethos.

### **Possible signs of being bullied**

- Unwillingness to go to playgroup
- Becoming anxious when entering certain situations.
- Unexplained mood swings/becoming withdrawn at group situations.
- Loss of enthusiasm and concentration when taking part in activities.
- Reluctance to say what is troubling them.
- Becoming upset for no apparent reason.
- Complaining about being unwell,
- Atypical soiling.

**N.B. These signs & behaviours may indicate other problems but bullying should be considered.**

### **Our procedures for dealing with Bullying**

All staff within our centre will implement the following strategies: -

1. Be aware of signs of bullying and report concerns.
2. Liaise with all members of staff and devise appropriate and consistent strategies to deal with bullying behaviour.
3. The staff will record, through observation, incidents that may cause concern.
4. We will talk with children at their level and explain acceptable behaviour towards other children.
5. Our staff will create opportunities for caring & sharing.
6. We will use the curriculum e.g. circle time, role play etc. to develop social skills.
7. Monitor and evaluate the situation and acknowledge appropriate behaviour.
8. We will support the child who is being bullied and the child who is bullying through building the self-esteem of both children.
9. If problem persists, we will refer to our Behaviour Management Policy.
10. If necessary, we will involve parents and work in partnership to develop strategies to overcome bullying behaviour.

**Bullying of a child/children, a co-worker, volunteer or visitor by any member of staff will not be tolerated in our centre. Should this occur, the disciplinary procedures forming part of the Terms and Conditions of Employment will be implemented immediately.**