



Freeland Pre-school

Freeland Partnership Foundation Stage Unit,
Freeland CE Primary School, Parklands, Freeland, Witney, OX29 8HX

Tel: 01993 882945

Email: freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk

Web site: www.freelandpreschool.org

Freeland Pre-school is a Registered Charity [No: 1015592]

Physical handling and intervention policy

Policy statement

Our policy will be supported by advice from the Early Years Foundation Stage or the Specialist Early Years teams.

All staff within the setting aim to help children take responsibility for their own behaviour. The age of a child and their level of development and understanding **MUST** be taken into consideration

Freeland Pre-school will use a combination of approaches, in partnership with the parent/carer, which include:

- Positive role modelling
- Planning a range of interesting and challenging activities
- Setting and enforcing appropriate boundaries and expectations
- Providing positive feedback.

However, there may be occasional times when a child's behaviour presents particular challenges that may require physical handling. This policy sets out expectations for the use of physical handling.

Definitions

There are three main types of physical intervention:

Positive handling. The positive use of touch is a normal part of human interaction. Touch might be appropriate in a range of situations: giving guidance to children (such as how to hold a paintbrush or when climbing), providing emotional support (such as placing an arm around a distressed child) or physical care (such as first aid or toileting). Staff must exercise appropriate care when using touch. There are some children for whom touch would be inappropriate such as those with a history of physical or sexual abuse. The setting's policy is not intended to imply that staff should no longer touch children.

Physical intervention. Physical intervention can include mechanical and environmental means such as high chairs, stair gates or locked doors. These may be appropriate ways of ensuring a child's safety.

Restrictive physical intervention. This is when a member of staff uses physical force intentionally to restrict a child's movement against his or her will reducing any risk to the child, other children or adults in the immediate area. In most cases this will be through the use of the adult's body rather than mechanical or environmental methods. When physical intervention is used, it is used within the principle of reasonable minimal force. Staff will only use as little restrictive force as necessary in order to maintain safety. Staff will use this for as short a period as possible.

This policy refers mainly to the use of restrictive bodily physical intervention.

Codes for the use of restrictive physical intervention

- Restrictive physical handling at Freeland Pre-school will be used in the context of our positive behaviour management approaches.
- Freeland Pre-school will only use restrictive physical intervention in extreme circumstances.
- Restrictive physical handling is not Freeland Pre-School's preferred way of managing children's behaviour.
- Freeland Pre-school has a well-established Positive Behaviour Management policy and uses strategies to promote positive behaviour. Freeland Pre-School aims to do all it can in order to avoid using restrictive physical intervention.
- Restrictive physical intervention will never be used out of anger, as a punishment or as an alternative to measures which are less intrusive and which staff judge would be effective.

Freeland Pre-school will use restrictive positive intervention when:

- There are clearly situations of such extreme danger that create an immediate need for the use of restrictive physical intervention. They may be used alongside other strategies such as saying "stop".
- When children are in danger of hurting themselves, others or of causing significant damage to property.

Who can use restrictive physical Intervention

The child's key person will usually be involved in a restrictive physical intervention. The keyperson is most likely to be able to use other methods to support the child and keep them safe without using physical intervention.

In an emergency any qualified member of staff can use restrictive physical intervention as long as it is consistent with the setting's policy.

Where individual children's behaviour means that they are likely to require restrictive physical intervention, staff should identify members of staff who are most appropriate to be involved.

Staff who are regularly required to use restrictive physical intervention will receive training.

Where it is judged that restrictive physical intervention is necessary, staff should:

- Aim for side-by-side contact with the child.
- Avoid positioning themselves in front (to reduce the risk of being kicked) or behind (to reduce the risk of allegations of sexual misconduct).
- Aim for no gap between the adult's and child's body, where they are side by side. This minimises the risk of impact and damage.
- Aim to keep the adult's back as straight as possible.
- Beware in particular of head positioning, to avoid head butts from the child.
- Hold children by "long" bones, i.e. avoid grasping at joints where pain and damage are most likely.
- Ensure that there is no restriction to the child's ability to breathe. In particular, this means avoiding holding a child around the chest cavity or stomach.
- Avoid lifting mobile children where possible.

Recording and reporting

Freeland Pre-school will record all incidences of restrictive physical handling in the incident file and ask parents and staff to sign and date. A copy will be given to the parents/carers.

A risk assessment may be undertaken and staff in consultation with parents may consider reviewing the individual behaviour plan so that the risk of needing to use restrictive physical intervention again is reduced.

After a restrictive physical intervention

Freeland Pre-school aims to support all who are involved in a restrictive physical intervention, whether as the person doing the holding, the child being held or someone observing or hearing about what has happened.

- Staff will give support to the child so that they can understand why they were held.
- Where appropriate, staff may have the same sort of conversations with other children who observed what happened (dependent upon their age and level of understanding). In all

cases, staff will wait until the child has calmed down enough to be able to talk productively and understand this conversation.

- If necessary, an independent member of staff will check for injury and provide appropriate first aid.
- The adults should be given the chance to talk through what has happened with the most appropriate person from the staff team.
- Parents /Carers will be contacted to inform them that restrictive physical intervention has taken place.
- A record is kept in the incident file. The record is signed and dated by staff and parents.
- Where anyone (child, carer, staff member or visitor) has a concern, this should be dealt with through the setting's usual complaints procedure.