

Behaviour Policy

At Into The Woods we believe that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met and where there are clear and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour.

With the correct support, encouragement and teaching children will learn to consider the views and feelings, and needs and rights of others, and the impact that their behaviour has on people, places and objects. This is a developmental task that requires time and patience.

At Into the Woods outdoor nursery we will:

- Have an understanding of the stages of development of the children in the nursery and the common behaviours displayed by the age group.
- Strive to develop strong and positive relationships with the children in the nursery to ensure the children have a sense of attachment and security whilst at nursery.
- Place the needs of the children at the centre of the nursery ethos to maximise individual success and raise self esteem.
- Create a positive environment which encourages and reinforces caring, nurturing and acceptable behaviour towards one another, the environment and equipment.
- Be mindful of the need to maintain safety at all times.
- Establish clear boundaries for the children and an understanding of acceptable behaviour .
- Provide a positive role model for all children and volunteers
- Involve staff, parents, children and outside agencies in setting acceptable standards of behaviour
- Develop positive partnerships with parents/carers in order to work together in the best interests of the child.
- Communicate frequently with parents/carers
- Observe children and document learning as it happens to ensure that we provide the best environment for children to succeed consistently, through allowing children to lead their own play and learning.
- Follow positive behaviour and conflict resolution strategies.

Conflict resolution

At Into The Woods we promote peaceful conflict resolution between children, and aim to resolve conflicts or problems in a way that does not physically, emotionally, or socially hurt anyone involved. In a conflict situation, rather than telling the children what they have done wrong and asking them to change, staff give children the opportunity and suggestions to resolve the conflict themselves. Peaceful conflict resolution provides children with opportunities to feel competent in handling situations and relationships and helps develop self esteem.

Addressing issues with behaviour

At Into The Woods we will communicate openly and honestly with parents about their child's session at the nursery, including discussing behaviour – positive behaviour or any issues that have arisen. When persistent behaviour issues do occur we will meet with the parent to discuss them. We will talk about the best way to support their child whilst keeping other children safe, listen to the parent's experience in terms of what works or doesn't work at home and agree a specific approach for the individual child that we will put in place during each session. We will also work with any other agencies that might already be involved with that child, or that we think should be involved (with the agreement of the parents) – eg, the local authority SEND coordinator, education psychologist. We will then review this approach regularly.

Physical intervention

Into The Woods recognises that there may on rare occasions be cause to physically intervene when there is a risk to a child's safety. We seek to minimise the likelihood of this happening and only physically restrain or handle a child when their actions put their own or others' safety at risk. Physical intervention is never used to gain compliance, or for any other reason whatsoever.

In cases when physical intervention is necessary, staff will always use the minimum force for the shortest period required to ensure that the child or children are safe.

Policy review

Last reviewed: November 2020

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