

Physical Handling Policy

At Little Munchkins Pre-School, we aim to help children take responsibility for their own behaviour. We implement a combination of the following approaches to reach this aim:

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

On some occasions, a child's behaviour may present particular challenges that require physical handling. There are three main types of physical handling:

Positive handling:

Positive use of touch is a normal part of human interaction and may be appropriate in a range of situations that occur on a day to day basis at the setting.

- Giving guidance to children (how to hold a pencil, climbing, leading a child by hand)
- Providing emotional support (placing an arm around a distressed child or comforting them)
- Physical care (first aid or toileting)

Physical intervention:

Physical intervention can include stair gates, locked doors, fencing; these may be appropriate ways of ensuring a child's safety.

Restrictive physical intervention:

Physical force may be used intentionally to restrict a child's movement. In most cases this will be through the use of an adult's body rather than mechanical or environmental methods. We will only resort to restrictive physical intervention in extreme circumstances, and this will not be the preferred way of managing a child's behaviour.

We do all we can to avoid using restrictive physical intervention, however, there are situations which may require immediate need for the use of restrictive physical intervention. Saying 'stop' in such circumstances alongside restrictive physical intervention may be appropriate. In most cases, a child is diverted to another activity or simply instructed to stop. If judged necessary, staff may resort to restrictive physical intervention.

This type of intervention is used when staff believe the child is in danger of hurting themselves, others, or causing significant damage to property; as staff have a responsibility to intervene in such circumstances.

When used, physical intervention is used within the principal of minimal force. Staff will use as little force as necessary in order to diffuse the situation, for as short a period as possible.

Where restrictive physical intervention is necessary, staff should:

- Aim for side-by-side contact with the child, avoiding positioning themselves in front or behind the child.
- Aim for no gap between themselves and the child to minimise risk of impact and **damage**.
- Be aware of child's head positioning to avoid any head butts from the child.
- Hold children by long bones, avoiding joints, where pain is most likely.
- Ensure there is no restriction to the child's breathing.

Recording and reporting:

It is vital that any use of restrictive physical intervention is recorded within 24 hours of the incident. Parents will be informed and given a copy of the standard form.

Supporting and reviewing:

After an incident where restrictive physical handling is used, support will be given to the child to help them understand why they were restrained. Where appropriate, similar support will be given to children who observed what happened. The aim of this is to repair any potential strain on the relationship between child and the adult who restrained them. Staff will also review the incident to ensure that the risk of using restrictive physical intervention is minimised.

Hassle Log:

Staff to understand why and, what made the child upset by completing a hassle log with the child

This policy was adopted by: Little Munchkins	Date:
To be reviewed:	Signed:

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2012): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Complaints [3.73-3.74]* .