



Social and Emotional Guidance Policy

At Little Acorns we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment.

This will enable all of our children to play, learn and relax in a safe and secure atmosphere.

We believe that a positive manner to direct a situation using suitable language is appropriate and staff will communicate with the children according to their age and stage of development.

Building children's confidence and self-esteem is paramount.

Our approach to children's social and emotional development is about empowering children in our care, they are treated with politeness and respect, as equals. At every stage children are consulted. We listen to children's ideas and opinions regarding all aspects of their day. Children are guided and supported to resolve conflict between themselves with a sensitive practitioner close by.

In consultation with parents/carers we aim to provide positive and stimulating activities, using

observations to discover the child's interests. This will promote self-expression and self confidence, giving them the opportunity to reach their full potential.

If a child's interest/actions cause risk or harm to themselves or equipment, staff will offer the child an alternative solution which will cater for their individual needs. For example, if a child likes climbing on the shelving units, staff will provide soft play or extra garden time discussing with the child the reasons behind this change.

Staff will use positive reinforcement to channel any excessive energy or signs of frustration into more focused activities.

If staff have any worries about a child's emotional well-being an Incident Report Form will be completed and discussed with the parents/carers to keep them informed.

SEAD will always be followed but alternative strategies may be used alongside this to support individual children with more specific needs such as Autism.

Icebergs will be used to address a child's continuing unwanted behaviour. The aim is to identify what the child's need is, why they do it, how it presents itself and how we can support it.

Physical intervention should only be used to support a child's emotional outburst if it is necessary to prevent personal injury to the child, other children or an adult, to prevent serious damage to property, or in what would reasonably be regarded as exceptional circumstances. Any occasion where physical intervention is used to manage an incident this should then be recorded, and parents/carers should be informed on the same day.

A staff member shall not be taken to have given corporal punishment in breach of the above if the action was taken for reasons that include averting an immediate danger of personal injury to, or an immediate danger of death of, any person (including the child).

Reward Systems

We believe that children should be rewarded through praise and positive encouragement for all that they do throughout the day. This builds upon their self-esteem and self worth.

Extreme social and emotional outbursts

In the case of extreme outburst where other children or the child themselves are at risk, we would arrange a formal meeting with the parents/carers to discuss additional ideas and permission would be sought to contact the Inclusion Support Officer for additional input. If there is no improvement after an agreed amount of time, the Inclusion Support Officer would be contacted again for further help, if this proves unsuccessful the child may be sent home for cooling off/extended periods. This decision would not be taken lightly and only after consulting the parents/carers.

Anti Bullying

We believe that children of this age do not bully other children or use aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Children may lash out because they are feeling strong emotions and are unable to express their displeasure in words.

Our staff are trained to talk to the child to help and support them during this difficult time.

All children will be allowed to express themselves but homophobic, cyber, racist and gender related will be challenged.

Rough and Tumble Play/Superhero Play

We believe in following our children's interests. This can often be superhero play. During this play children may become involved in rough and tumble play i.e. Pulling on one another. The nursery will allow this play and guide the children in establishing boundaries that all children are comfortable with. Through this play children learn to:

- Role play
- Act upon images/media they see at home
- Help set rules and boundaries
- Learn to listen to one another
- Resolve conflict as it arises
- Learn new skills
- Express themselves
- Run off additional energy

Studies show that children, especially boys, have natural instincts to act out these behaviours, and by restricting this form of play will only force children to act it out in secret but it will not suppress it.

Weapon Play

The use of weapons such as toy guns, knives etc will be allowed into the setting. Children may create their own in the setting or bring them in from home (the nursery holds no responsibility for toys brought in from home). From this play children will:

- Make sense of what they see at home/in the media
- Extend their creativeness
- Learn rules and boundaries
- Teach children about morals
- Understand the world

Research shows that this form of play does not make children aggressive in adult life, instead it gives children a better understanding of keeping themselves and others safe.

The Manager is responsible for Social & Emotional Guidance Policy within the nursery.
Appropriate training will be sort and updated regularly.

Reviewed: Nov 2020