Delaware Pre-School
Providing Quality Childcare Since 1969

Behaviour Management (including Anti-Bullying)

The Named Person responsible for Behaviour Management is Zoe Pluckrose Training for this is updated every 3 years.

We believe that children and adults flourish best in an ordered environment in which everyone knows what is expected of them and children are free to develop their play and learning without fear of being hurt or hindered by anyone else. We aim to work towards a situation in which children can develop self-discipline and self-esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement.

In order to achieve this all adults will try to provide a positive model to the children with regard to friendliness, care and courtesy, and to offer strategies for handling any conflict.

Rules governing the conduct of the group and behaviour of the children will be discussed and agreed within the pre-school and explained to all children and adults if necessary.

All adults in the pre-school will ensure that the rules are applied consistently, so that children have the security of knowing what to expect and can build up useful habits of behaviour.

Adults will praise and endorse desirable behaviour such as kindness and willingness to share.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our pre-school. Bullying is a repeated or persistent act with the intention of hurting

another person. It causes pain and distress to the victim. Bullying can be emotional, being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting. It can be physical, pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence, racist, racial taunts or gestures, or verbal, name-calling, spreading rumours and teasing. Adults in the pre-school will help the children to challenge bullying behaviour.

We will take positive steps to avoid a situation in which children receive adult attention only in return for undesirable behaviour.

When children behave in unacceptable ways they will never be sent out of a room by themselves. Physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking, will be neither used nor threatened.

In cases of serious misbehaviour, such as racial or other abuse and bullying, the unacceptability of the behaviour and attitudes will be made clear immediately, but by means of explanations rather than personal blame.

In any case of misbehaviour, it will always be made clear to the child or children in question that it is the behaviour and not the child that is unwelcome. Adults will not shout or raise their voices in a threatening way. Adults will make themselves aware of, and respect, a range of cultural expectations regarding interactions between people.

Any behaviour problems will be handled in a developmentally appropriate fashion, respecting individual children's level of understanding and maturity. Parents/carers will be informed of changes in behaviour and any injury incurred or caused to another child. Recurring problems will be tackled by the whole pre-school, using objective observation records to establish an understanding of the cause.

Rough & Tumble Play & Fantasy Aggression

Young children often engage in play that has aggressive themes- such as superhero and weapon play; some children appear pre-occupied with these themes, but their behaviour is not necessarily a precursor to hurtful behaviour or bullying, although it maybe inconsiderate at times and may need addressing.

- We recognise that rough and tumble play is normal for young children and acceptable within limits. We regard these kinds of play as pro-social and not as problematic or aggressive.
  We will develop strategies to contain play that are agreed with the children, and understood by them, with acceptable behavioural boundaries to ensure children are not hurt.
- We recognise that fantasy play also contains many violently dramatic strategies, blowing up, shooting etc, and that themes often refer to 'goodies and baddies' and as such offer opportunities for us to explore concepts of right and wrong.
- We are able to tune into the content of play, perhaps to suggest alternative strategies for heros and heroines, making the most 'teachable moments ' to encourage empathy and lateral thinking to explore alternative scenarios and strategies for conflict resolution.

Hurtful Behaviour

We take hurtful behaviour very seriously. Most children under the age of 5 will at some stage hurt or say something hurtful to another child, especially if their emotions are high at the time, but it is not helpful to label this behaviour as 'bullying'. For children under 5, hurtful behaviour is momentary, spontaneous and often without cognisance of the feelings of the person whom they have hurt.

- We recognise that young children behave in hurtful ways towards others because they have not yet developed the means to manage intense feelings that sometimes overwhelm them.
- We will help them manage these feelings as they have neither the biological means nor the cognitive means to do this for themselves.

Adults will be aware that some kinds of behaviour may arise from a child's special needs.

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Chair sign;	AA	KL					
Manager Sign;	HA	HA					
Date of review	Jan 25	Jan 26					
Date of next review	Jan 26	Jan 27					

Changes 2025	N/A
Changes 2026	Name change
Changes 2027	
Changes 2028	
Changes 2029	
Changes 2030	
Changes 2031	