



Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy

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Related Policies

- Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Benefit Policy

Policy Statement

At Forest & Play, we recognise that behaviour is a form of communication and that children often express their feelings, emotions and unmet needs through their behaviour, particularly in the early years when self-regulation skills are still developing.

Our woodland environment provides children with opportunities to develop confidence, resilience, independence and self-awareness through meaningful experiences, managed risk-taking and child-led exploration. We support children through positive relationships, co-regulation and consistent, nurturing approaches that help them understand their feelings, develop empathy and learn how to manage their behaviour appropriately.

We actively promote kindness, respect, inclusion and cooperation and aim to create an environment where children feel emotionally secure, physically active and supported by trusted adults.

We recognise that children are more likely to display positive behaviours when they feel emotionally secure, physically active, connected to nature and supported by trusted adults.

Getting to Know Each Child

At Forest & Play, we recognise that every child is unique. We believe children are most able to thrive, explore and learn when they feel safe, understood and emotionally secure. Building strong relationships with children and their families begins before a child starts with us.

Before a child joins Forest & Play, we work closely with parents and carers to gain a thorough understanding of their individual needs, interests, routines and preferences. This enables us to provide a smooth transition into our woodland environment and



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ensures practitioners can respond appropriately to each child's emotional, physical and developmental needs.

Where appropriate, we may offer a home visit before a child starts. Home visits provide an opportunity for practitioners to begin building relationships with children and families in a familiar environment and can help us gain a better understanding of the child. Home visits are entirely voluntary and will always be arranged in partnership with parents and carers.

We understand that children settle and regulate in different ways. Where appropriate, children may be supported to access familiar comfort items, trusted adults, quiet spaces, movement opportunities or sensory experiences to help them feel calm, safe and ready to engage in play and learning.

Information gathered through discussions with parents, settling-in sessions and home visits (where undertaken) will be used to help practitioners plan effective support, identify potential triggers, understand how children regulate ready to learn from their first day at Forest & Play.

Aims

To support positive behaviour, we aim to:

- Recognise and value the individuality of every child.
- Build warm, trusting and responsive relationships.
- Support children to develop self-regulation and emotional resilience.
- Help children understand and manage their feelings.
- Promote respect for others, ourselves, equipment, nature and wildlife.
- Encourage children to solve problems and resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Provide consistent boundaries that are appropriate to children's age and stage of development.
- Work in partnership with parents and carers to support children's emotional wellbeing.
- Celebrate effort, perseverance, kindness and achievement.
- Ensure all practitioners act as positive role models.
- Promote inclusion and ensure all children feel valued and respected.
- Support children to develop confidence through challenge and managed risk.



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Forest & Play Expectations

Our expectations focus on safety, respect and responsibility. Children are supported to understand the importance of:

- Keeping themselves safe.
- Keeping others safe.
- Respecting nature, wildlife and the woodland environment.
- Caring for tools, equipment and resources.
- Listening and responding to safety instructions.
- Being kind, considerate and respectful towards others.

These expectations are introduced in an age-appropriate way and reinforced through daily practice, stories, discussions, modelling and positive interactions.

Celebrating Positive Behaviour and Achievement

At Forest & Play, we believe that recognising positive behaviour helps children develop confidence, self-esteem, a sense of belonging and an understanding of our expectations.

Practitioners regularly acknowledge and praise behaviours such as:

- Kindness and consideration towards others.
- Perseverance and resilience.
- Respect for nature, wildlife and the environment.
- Helpful behaviour and cooperation.
- Problem-solving and independence.
- Following safety expectations and boundaries.
- Effort, achievement and personal progress.

Children may be awarded a "Wow" in recognition of positive behaviour, effort, achievement or acts of kindness. Wows are shared and displayed on our Wow Tree within the cabin to celebrate children's successes and encourage a positive and supportive community.

We focus on recognising individual progress and effort rather than comparison with others, ensuring every child has opportunities to experience success and feel valued.



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Supporting Emotional Regulation

We recognise that many children regulate their emotions through movement, sensory experiences and time outdoors. Our woodland environment naturally supports emotional wellbeing through opportunities to:

- Climb, balance and move freely.
- Dig, build and create.
- Explore nature and wildlife.
- Engage in imaginative play.
- Spend time in quiet spaces.
- Participate in sensory-rich experiences.
- Develop independence and problem-solving skills.

Practitioners support children through co-regulation, helping them recognise feelings, develop coping strategies and gradually build the skills needed for self-regulation.

Our Approach to Behaviour

Practitioners will:

- Remain calm, patient and supportive.
- Listen to children and acknowledge their feelings.
- Help children identify and name emotions.
- Support children to find solutions and repair relationships.
- Redirect behaviour where appropriate.
- Encourage empathy and consideration for others.
- Offer reassurance, comfort and support when needed.
- Focus on teaching appropriate behaviours rather than punishing unwanted behaviours.
- Work collaboratively with parents where additional support may be needed.

We always make it clear that it is the behaviour that is unacceptable, never the child.

We do not use physical punishment, humiliation, intimidation, threats, shouting or any practice that could adversely affect a child's wellbeing.



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Managing Behaviour That Challenges

Where children display behaviour that challenges, practitioners will seek to understand the reason behind the behaviour and consider factors such as:

- Developmental stage.
- Communication needs.
- Sensory needs.
- Tiredness or hunger.
- Anxiety or emotional distress.
- Changes in family circumstances.
- Additional needs or disabilities.

Practitioners will use professional curiosity to understand what the behaviour may be communicating and consider whether any unmet need, environmental factor or developmental difference may be contributing.

Where concerns persist, we will work closely with parents, the SENCO and other professionals where appropriate to develop strategies that support the child's wellbeing and success within the setting.

Where necessary, an individual behaviour support plan and risk assessment may be developed in partnership with parents and relevant professionals.

Physical Intervention

Forest & Play never uses corporal punishment, physical punishment, humiliation or intimidation.

Physical intervention will only ever be used as a last resort to prevent:

- Injury to the child
- Injury to another child or another person.
- Serious damage to property.
- Immediate danger.

Due to the outdoor nature of the provision, practitioners may occasionally need to intervene quickly where a child is:

- Running towards a hazard.
- Climbing beyond agreed safe boundaries.



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- Using tools unsafely.
- Entering the fire circle without permission.
- Putting themselves or others at immediate risk.

Any intervention will be reasonable, proportionate, recorded and shared with parents on the same day wherever possible.

Partnership with Parents

We believe that children benefit most when practitioners and parents work together. Open communication helps ensure consistent approaches between home and Forest & Play and supports children's emotional wellbeing and development

Any concerns regarding behaviour will be discussed sensitively and confidentially with parents, with a shared focus on understanding the reasons behind the behaviour and identifying strategies that best support the child.

Bullying

Whilst bullying is uncommon within the early years age range, any repeated behaviour intended to hurt, intimidate, exclude or upset another child will be taken seriously.

Children will be supported to understand the impact of their actions, develop empathy and build positive relationships. We will work closely with parents to address any concerns and achieve a positive outcome.

Confidentiality and Record Keeping

Any significant behaviour incidents will be recorded factually and shared with parents where appropriate.

Records will be stored securely within the child's file and used to identify patterns, triggers and strategies that may help support the child more effectively.

All information will be treated confidentially and managed in accordance with data protection requirements.



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Responsibility

The Forest School Leader/Manager is the named person responsible for promoting positive behaviour and supporting practitioners in implementing this policy.

They will:

- Support practitioners with behaviour concerns.
- Work in partnership with parents and carers.
- Liaise with the SENCO and external professionals where required.
- Ensure behaviour support strategies remain consistent and child-centred.
- Keep up to date with current research, guidance and best practice.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner following:

- Changes in legislation or guidance.
- Safeguarding concerns or serious incidents.
- Recommendations arising from reviews or investigations.
- Identified improvements to practice.