



Physical Intervention

Dear Parents,

This is an information sheet that we will be sending to all parent/carers of children within our setting.

New legislation as set out in the Statutory Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2012 has stipulated that we highlight physical intervention within the group.

The definition of physical intervention:

“Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort, when staff believe that action is necessary to prevent injury to the child or others, or to prevent significant damage to equipment or property. If a member of staff has to physically restrain a child, the manager will be notified and an **Incident record** will be completed. The incident will be discussed with the parent or carer as soon as possible.”*

**Physical intervention is where practitioners use reasonable force to prevent children from injuring themselves or others or damaging property*

Please be assured that physical intervention will only be used as a last resort where we deem a child to be putting themselves or others in danger or equipment could be damaged. We never use physical punishment, such as smacking, shaking a child or threatening a child with any of these on playgroup premises and that your child's safety and well-being is of paramount importance to us here at St Peter's Under 5's.

If any form of restraint were to be used then we will record an incident if we deem it to be serious. The parent will be informed at the end of session and asked to sign the incident log. This is so that we can build a pattern of behaviour to establish whether a child may need extra support when difficult situations arise or if a pattern of incidents occurs which may indicate physical abuse.

As caring professional practitioners we are obviously in non tactile contact with your child most of the time but such times may arise that your child may need comforting, helping onto apparatus by means of holding a child's hand/arm whilst mounting equipment or calming a child down if an incident arises where they become upset. This may also however, be perceived as *physical intervention*. When a child is upset then sometimes children respond to comforting by means of being held for reassurance, this would also mean that in any such case we would also have to log this in the incident log and as you can appreciate most children at some time need help in situations and an incident log would probably be full on the first day! In order to cover ourselves we would ask if you would sign to below permission form in order to cover such an event and prevent unnecessary paperwork that would arise from such matters.

Thank you for your support and if you wish to discuss any such matters then please don't hesitate to speak to Emma Madigan the Playgroup Manager who will be happy to discuss these with you.

Yours sincerely
Emma Powell
Playgroup Manager

Attachment

Physical intervention

I give permission for the Practitioners at St. Peter's Playgroup to use physical intervention for the following purposes:

Child's name

- If my child is upset and may need to be held for reassurance
- If my child needs help e.g. holding their arm to mount apparatus,
- If an incident arises where my child is danger of hurting themselves, others or damaging property to be physically removed from that situation for safety reasons by means of being led by the hand, lifted out of a situation or may need physically restraining.

Parent's signature Date