



66 Saltash Road,
Keyham, Plymouth, PL2-1QS

www.pelican-childcare.co.uk

Policy on physical intervention

The use of physical interventions should be limited to keeping the child and others around the child safe.

If a child is distressed or hurt, adults are expected to respond in an appropriate manner relative to the age of the child. This may include offering physical comfort in the form of a cuddle, sitting the child briefly on adult knee (for comfort only – not as a regular occurrence) or taking the child to a quiet space to help the child calm.

Some children do NOT welcome physical comfort and adults should consider this and not offer unwanted physical contact. Parents/carers should be consulted to agree best way to provide comfort.

At times the most appropriate way to teach a child a new skill is to use physical prompting e.g. hand over hand to teach them to use a pencil or to introduce Picture Exchange Communication system (PECS) or guiding directional hand on a child's back to reinforce understanding an instruction such as to go and put "coat on", "wash hands" etc...

DfE guidelines & Education Act 1996 section 550a identify that a physical intervention can be used as a last resort in circumstances where:-

- The child is at risk of harming /injuring themselves
- The child is at risk of harming /injuring others
- Good [classroom] order is at risk

Routine non-physical strategies should include distraction, redirection, ignoring negative behaviours and positive engagement. However if, as a last resort in exceptional circumstances, physical intervention is considered necessary, it should be used with minimal force over the shortest period of time. These may include:-

- Physically interposing between two/or more children
- Blocking a child's path if they are intent on hurting another child

- Deflecting a child away by placing a hand in the centre of their back.

Moving a child who is refusing to leave an area, by picking them up and taking them to an appropriate place (e.g. inside to outside). Moving a child to a quiet area, with the support of an adult, when behaviour is disturbing the activities of others within the room.

Physical intervention should only be used to manage a child's behaviour 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, and that any occasion where physical intervention is used to manage a child's behaviour it is recorded and parents are informed about it on the same day.

Incidents involving control or physical restraint should be recorded immediately after the incident has occurred on the appropriate form. Parents are to be informed and their signature provided to confirm that the incident has been explained to them.

The team should agree, plan and record strategies appropriate for individual children to encourage positive behaviour.

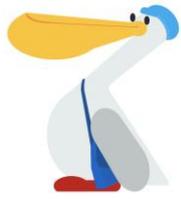
This policy was adopted on

By.....

Date.....

Review

date.....



PELICAN
CHILDRENS CENTRE

66 Saltash Road,
Keyham, Plymouth, PL2-1QS

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Physical intervention record

Child's

Name.....

This child is known to the following services:-

Dear.....Date.....

Pelican Children's Centre will occasionally need to apply Physical Intervention (PI) as is set out in our policy and procedures. Please confirm that you have had your child's needs explained to you and why general physical intervention may be considered necessary and that you have seen and signed a copy of the policy.

I confirm the above and give my permission to Pelican Children's Centre to apply reasonable general, physical intervention

Parents signature.....Date.....

Record of specific event physical intervention

Date/time	Reason for PI and what was done	By whom	Parent signature & date

