

## TAVISTOCK PRESCHOOL GROUP

BROADACRES, FLEET.  
HAMPSHIRE GU51 4EB  
TEL: 01252 616902

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1050163

[www.tavistock-preschool.co.uk](http://www.tavistock-preschool.co.uk)  
MANAGER - PAULA PHILLIPS. BA.

# **PHYSICAL HANDLING POLICY**

## **Statement of intent**

At Tavistock Pre-School we aim to help children take responsibility for their own behaviour. This will be done through a combination of approaches including:

Positive Role Modelling

Providing a stimulating, interesting and challenging learning environment

Setting and enforcing appropriate boundaries and expectations

Providing positive feedback

However there are very occasional times when a child's behaviour presents particular challenges that may require physical handling. There are three main types of handling

### **- Positive Handling**

The positive use of touch is a normal part of human interaction. At Tavistock pre-school we will exercise appropriate care when handling children (see Safeguarding children policy). We will use positive handling in appropriate situations for example :

- Giving guidance to children (such as how to hold a paintbrush, or when climbing)
- Providing emotional support (such as placing an arm around a distressed child)
- Physical care (such as first aid or toileting)

### **- Physical Intervention**

This is only used to prevent children from leaving the premises without adult supervision, eg a stair gate is used to prevent access to external doors.

### **- Restrictive Physical Intervention**

This is when a member of staff uses physical force intentionally to restrict a child's movement against his or her will. In most cases this will be through the use of the adult's body rather than mechanical or environmental methods.

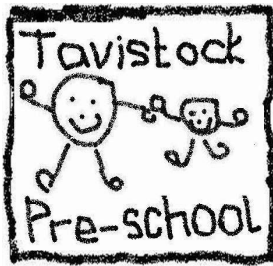
## **The use of Restrictive Physical Intervention**

At Tavistock Pre-School we will only use physical restrictive handling as a last resort when:

- A child is injuring themselves or others
- A child is damaging property
- To prevent the imminent injury or damage

Staff will aim to prevent the use of physical restrictive handling by using positive behaviour management (see behaviour management policy) unless the situation calls for immediate action and will only be used to restore safety for all children.

Within our duty of care, staff may use physical restrictive handling if a child is trying to leave the setting and would be at risk of harm. This policy extends beyond the setting boundaries when staff have charge of children off site.



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Physical Restrictive Handling will never be used out of anger or as a punishment.

### **Method**

A member of staff who knows the child best, typically their key-person or back-up key-person will be involved in keeping the child safe. All other methods of behaviour management will be considered/used before any physical intervention is used. This would include a range of approaches such as humour, distraction, relocation and offering choices, which are direct alternatives to using restrictive physical intervention.

Where an individual child's behaviour means they are likely to require physical restrictive handling we will discuss this with the parents and set out a physical handling plan. This plan would specify the staff member(s) most appropriate and other methods to be used to support the child and maintain their physical and emotional health. Other professionals appropriate to the child may be consulted in the making of the plan.

These plans will be reviewed at least once every half term and more often if there are major changes in the child's behaviours.

Staff have had specific training in the use of Physical Restrictive Intervention.

Where it is judged that Physical Restrictive Handling is necessary, staff will:

- Aim for side by side contact between adult and child to reduce the risk of being kicked.
- Aim for no gap between the adult and child body to reduce the risk of impact and damage.
- Aim to keep the adults back as straight as possible
- Aim to avoid holding the child at joints to avoid pain and damage
- Aim to avoid lifting the child
- Aim to not restrict the child's ability to breath

At no time will a child be forced to spend time alone in a locked room except in an extreme emergency situation.

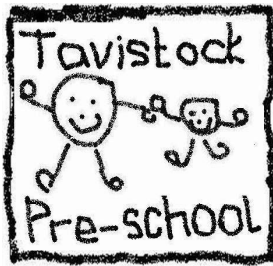
After Physical Restrictive Intervention the situation will be reviewed and a handling plan will be made.

### **Recording and Reporting**

The Manager/Deputy will inform the parents by the fastest means possible – usually telephoning.

The Manager/Deputy and staff member(s) involved will record and report the incident (using the form in the Policy Guidance 2004) within 24 hours. The parents will be given a copy of the report. The incident may also be noted in other records such as accident/incident records.

It is distressing to be involved in a Restrictive Physical Intervention, whether as the adult doing the holding, the child being held or top observers. Support will be given to the child so they understand why they were held. This conversation will happen when all are calm enough to talk productively and the child can understand. A record will be kept in the child's file about how they felt about this. Staff may also have similar conversations with children who observed the incident. Parents of these children will be informed. Support will be given to the staff involved both, directly or as observers. The staff will have an opportunity to share what happened with other staff members.



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We aim that the after-incident support will repair any potential strain to the relationship between the child and restraining adult. Staff will review the individual behaviour plan so that the risk of needing to use Restrictive Physical Intervention again is reduced.

### **Monitoring**

At Tavistock Pre-School we will seek support from the Area INCO when appropriate to help review our monitoring procedures. We will only monitor the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention to help identify trends, therefore to develop our ability to meet the needs of children without the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention.

This Policy was adopted at a meeting of TAVISTOCK PRE-SCHOOL

Held on:

Signed by Manager of Pre-School:

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:

Role of Signatory:

This Policy was reviewed on: