**5.b Physical Intervention**

**Policy Statement**

Acceptable physical intervention within a pre-school may be defined as the holding of a child with the minimum amount of force and for the minimum amount of time when it is absolutely necessary to prevent a child from injuring themselves or others or causing damage to property. At Woolston preschool we use physical intervention **only** in these circumstances and always maintain accurate records of any such incident.

**Procedures**

* If a situation occurs where staff are concerned that a child may need to be prevented from injuring themselves or others or causing damage to property staff will consider using alternatives to physical intervention as a first step. These alternatives may include;
  + Withdrawing other children or adults from the situation
  + Using distraction techniques
  + Changing the environment to prevent a child injuring themselves or others.
* Situations may occur when an immediate and decisive physical intervention is necessary to prevent injury or damage and it will not be practicable for staff to consider alternatives.
* If physical intervention is necessary it must be carried out with the **minimum force** and for the **minimum length of time**.
* Staff should continue to communicate with the child throughout any intervention so that the child understands exactly what is happening.
* Staff **never** do the following;
  + Shake a child
  + Hit a child
  + Hold a child around the neck or in any other way that may prevent or restrict breathing
* If at all possible the member of staff who is using physical intervention should alert another member of staff so that the situation can be witnessed and monitored.
* Full details of any such events must be recorded as soon as possible following the incident. This can be done as an accident form or an ABCC chart and if appropriate a copy will be added to the child’s personal file. The child’s parents will also be informed of the incident on the same day either in person or a phone call.

**This policy was adopted at a meeting of Woolston Community Pre-School held on 3 October 2016,**

Reviewed December 2023

**Role on committee: Nominated person**

Signed by

Date

Name of Signatory:

**Woolston Preschool manager**

Name Gemma Woodward

Date

Signature