

Anti-Bullying Policy

Principles

At Rainbow Stop Playgroup we aim to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in our care at all times. We are opposed to 'bullying' in any form and have effective procedures in place should this issue arise.

'Bullying' is defined as 'deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time where it is difficult for the victim to defend him or herself'.

Rainbow Stop Playgroup will ensure that all children are free from 'bullying' in any form while in the setting and put in place effective procedures to deal with this behaviour.

Procedure

Bullying can range from hurtful teasing to serious physical harm. Some forms of bullying in playgroup include:

- Hitting, kicking, pinching, throwing things or using implements to cause deliberate injury to another child.
- Spitting.
- Threatening another child
- Taunting or disparaging another child in relation to his/her abilities or achievements, physical appearance, ways of talking or his/her family.
- Not talking to another child or not letting them join in activities

Children who are being bullied may show some of the following symptoms:

- Emotional distress
- Fear
- Unresponsive
- Lack of confidence or self-esteem
- Unwillingness to come to playgroup

It is important that playgroup staff and parents are vigilant and listen to their children at all times and be aware of signs and symptoms of bullying.

We will try to prevent bullying by:

- Use of media initiative programme and resources
- Promoting a warm non-threatening environment
- Promote self-esteem among children through positive behavioural management
- All children are made aware of the rules and routines
- Circle time is used to discuss issues at playgroup.
- Close liaison with parents in relation to children's self-esteem and personal needs
- Incident book to record all incidents of bullying which may come to the attention of playgroup staff or information from parents. The incident book is to be kept in the office.

This policy was reviewed on: 22nd February 2015