



Oakbridge Little Learners LTD
66-68 Bridge Cross Road
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POSITIVE HANDLING AND PHYSICAL INTERVENTION POLICY

Policy Statement

Oakbridge Little Learners Ltd is committed to safeguarding children and promoting positive behaviour. Physical intervention is used **only as a last resort**, when a child is at immediate risk of harm to themselves, others, or serious damage to property.

All staff work to prevent situations escalating and use **positive behaviour support and de-escalation strategies** wherever possible.

This policy is implemented in line with the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** and should be read alongside the **Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Management Policy, Health, Safety & Hygiene Policy**, and the **Parent Handbook**.

Legal Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework
- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

General Principles

- Physical intervention is **never used as punishment**
- Staff do **not** use force unless absolutely necessary
- Any intervention must be:
 - reasonable
 - proportionate
 - appropriate to the child's age and understanding



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- The least restrictive intervention is always used
- The child's dignity is respected at all times

De-escalation and Prevention

Staff are trained to:

- Recognise triggers and early warning signs
- Use calm verbal guidance and reassurance
- Redirect behaviour and offer choices
- Remove potential hazards
- Support emotional regulation

Physical intervention is used **only when these strategies have not been effective**.

When Physical Intervention May Be Used

Physical intervention may be used **only** to:

- Prevent a child from injuring themselves or others
- Prevent serious damage to property
- Prevent a child from placing themselves in immediate danger

How Physical Intervention Is Carried Out

- Staff use approved, age-appropriate techniques
- The intervention lasts **only as long as necessary**
- Staff speak calmly and reassuringly throughout
- The child is supported emotionally once the situation has resolved



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Prohibited Practices

The following are **never permitted**:

- Corporal punishment
- Holding a child in a way that restricts breathing
- Causing pain, humiliation or distress
- Using physical intervention as a behaviour management strategy

Recording and Reporting

- All incidents involving physical intervention are recorded
- Records include:
 - the reason for intervention
 - actions taken
 - duration
 - staff involved
 - outcomes
- Parents/carers are informed on the **same day**
- The Nursery Manager reviews all incidents

Training and Support

- Staff receive training in:
 - positive behaviour management
 - de-escalation strategies



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- safe physical intervention where appropriate
 - Support plans may be implemented for children who require additional behavioural support
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Monitoring and Review

- Incidents are monitored to identify patterns or triggers
 - Strategies are reviewed to reduce future risk
 - This policy is reviewed regularly and following any incident
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Policy Review

Created: August 2015

Reviewed: January 2026