

Blue Bird Behavior Policy and Strategies:

Reason for policy:

Blue Bird Nursery bases its philosophy on developing the "holistic" child which respects every child's individual interests, preference and choice. We at BBN are fully committed to understanding every child's learning patterns and responses. Activities planned are age-appropriate based on the developmental curriculum in building social and emotional skills.

The policy has been developed to provide guidelines in identifying "unacceptable" behavior and strategies in intervention for both parents and teachers.

What is unacceptable behavior?

- Biting
- Spitting
- Throwing items at others
- Fighting
- Pushing
- Running around the class
- Intimidating others
- Using inappropriate language.



Possible causes

There are different possible "triggers" to unacceptable behavior and causes vary from child to child. Most typical causes can be:

- **Boredom**- a child will find something to occupy himself whether positive or negative. Always plan activities that are appropriate for his age and interests. Children are easy to engage when you understand their likes and dislikes.
- **Boundaries**- every child feels safe in an environment that has boundaries although they will often try to "push" the boundaries in order to display such unacceptable behavior, set rules that can easily be understood by the child in accordance to his age. Remember "BE CONSISTENT" once you agree on a rule it should never be compromised depending on how you feel or where you are, gently remind the child of the activity rules before you start them.

- **Attention seeking**- children will sometimes try to reach out to you for any reason; always acknowledge good effort however trivial, it sends a clear message that we ONLY reward positive behavior.
- **Deeper underlining emotions**- children do not know how to express themselves verbally so they respond in actions and usually aggression. If behavior is repeated and accelerates then a meeting with the Nursery Manager, parents and Teachers need to be scheduled in understanding the causes.
- **Copying**: Children at the nursery age learn best by copying and "unacceptable" behavior is most attractive to young ones and can easily be adopted. Address behavior immediately and remind them of the class or activity rules.
- **Special needs** - Children with special needs often react based on impulse and may not control over their emotions or reactions, specialists (behavior psychologists and educational psychologists) are always consulted.

Strategies:

"If a child doesn't know how to read, we teach." "If a child doesn't know how to swim, we teach." "If a child doesn't know how to multiply, we teach." "If a child doesn't know how to drive, we teach." "If a child doesn't know how to behave, we..... teach?punish?" "Why can't we finish the last sentence as automatically as we do the others?" Tom Herner (NASDE President) Counterpoint 1998, p.2)

Always remember to separate the behavior from the child its not - "you are a bad boy because you hit someone" rather "you are a good boy but fighting is a bad"

- **Biting**:
Isolate the biter immediately from the bitten child, express dislike of behaviour but do not prolong with a speech on how wrong it is to bite (*attention is still attention be it negative or positive*) Focus your attention on the bitten child comfort him, have the nurse apply cold press if needed or any other first aid required.
- **Fighting**: be observant! There could be possible triggers- sometimes children react aggressively because others have instigated them, they are those "silent" workers who know they can get away because no one suspects them. Be cautious and observant to avoid triggers; catch it before it escalates; children will resort to fighting most of the times if they feel an adult is not responding to their call for help. Group children dynamically avoid keeping children who have shown a trend in fighting together. Give them "hands on " activities, relaxing exercises, avoid over-stimulating exercises.

- **Copying:** never give attention or reward "unacceptable" behavior. If a child starts copying a behavior firmly remind them of the classroom/home rules.
- **Special needs:** consultations should be made before implementing any behavior interventions.
- **Deeper underlining emotions:** consult the nursery manager to follow up with parents and recommendations will be made for behavior interventions.

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH YOUR CHILDREN



Top tips:

1. Positive reinforcement is always the way to implement good behavior- Avoid "No running!" instead use "we walk in class" Words to avoid (don't, no, stop, never)



2. Place the class room rules on a wall and review them daily during circle time. Use lots of pictures
3. Ensure that all activities planned have a purpose for learning and are age-appropriate. Activities which are complex or too easily can lead to disinterest.
4. Allow children to experiment with different materials, differentiate texture, color, shape. Monotony is a big cause for mis-behavior.
5. Differentiate activities- provide different opportunities for students to learn- BBN is divided into many learning areas to give students a variety of opportunities to enhance their learning.

6. Have a set routine- children respond well to routine- it gives them a sense of security and ownership of their learning.
7. Be consistent!- consequences should never be negotiated, this also creates confusion leading to misbehavior.
8. Be organized and prepared- failure to plan is a plan to fail. Keep materials ready a day before. Share with your assistant and allocate them a center for each activity.
9. Always include independent activities in your learning centers- these are corner activities or floor activities that require minimal supervision. Try to include sensory stimulating activities.
10. Time/Pace your activities- prolonged activities can cause boredom leading to disinterest. Pace your activities make them suitable to the age you are teaching.
11. Be a role model- model good behavior also acknowledge good behavior however small.
12. Avoid shouting that shows loss of class room management.

Situations to be avoided:

- ❖ Never hit a child
- ❖ Never shout or scream at a child
- ❖ Never take or deny food or water as a form of punishment.
- ❖ Never leave a child isolated or cornered in a room
- ❖ Never humiliate or embarrass a child calling him names.
- ❖ Never threaten! I will not give you.....because you are bad.
- ❖ Never reward negative behaviour.
- ❖ Never use unkind words. They will use them on you.

Blue bird nursery understands every child's individuality and preferences; we assure quality interventions in building a child's confidence and will require parental support and external consultancy should the need arise i.e student's behavior becomes extreme.



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