



Behaviour Support Policy

Helping hands, Happy Hearts, Healthy Minds

Reviewed March 2026 · Next review March 2027



“Every & all behaviour is communication — positive & challenging alike.”

Our commitment

At Play Days we are committed to supporting every child’s personal, social & emotional development within a consistent, warm & emotionally attuned environment. We celebrate what each child can do while guiding them firmly & kindly toward safe, kind & respectful behaviour. All behaviour is communication — our first response is always to seek to understand.

Our principles

- Positive behaviour will always be our focus. Praise is a super tool & each child starts every day with a clean slate.
- We separate the behaviour from the child. The behaviour is the problem — never the child.
- Behaviour communicates unmet needs. We look beyond the surface before we respond.
- We set clear, consistent, age-appropriate boundaries through our Golden Rules.
- We use developmentally appropriate strategies: emotion coaching, co-regulation, calm spaces, visual supports & Makaton signs.
- We work in open partnership with parents & carers, sharing information early & building consistent approaches between home & nursery.
- Individual Behaviour Support Plans are developed collaboratively with parents & carers where additional support is needed.

What we will never do

Never use raised voices, physical restraint or humiliation to manage behaviour.

We will never shame, isolate or reject a child, apply sanctions that are excessive or inappropriate to a child’s age & stage, or threaten a child’s continued place at the setting.

How we respond

Our response follows a clear, consistent sequence:

1. **Soothe & de-escalate first.** Calm, sensitive adult presence. No teaching or consequences until the child has regulated.
2. **STAR** (Situation, trigger, action & response) Monitoring of incidents of dysregulated behaviour to identify patterns, rather than sole focus on the behaviour itself!
3. **Emotion coaching & discussion.** Once calm, we name feelings, explore what happened & agree natural consequences where appropriate.
4. **Partnership meeting.** Where behaviour is persistent, parents & carers are invited in to agree a shared, consistent Behaviour Support Plan.
5. **External referral.** Where further support is needed, we refer — with parental agreement — to appropriate agencies: Local Authority Inclusion Team, Health Visitor, GP or SENCO.

Partnership with parents & carers

We hold regular targeted support plan meetings with parents & carers — focused on each child's personal, social & emotional development & wellbeing. Early information sharing about changes at home, new interests, sleep or health changes helps our staff support each child uniquely. We will always approach these conversations with honesty, warmth & without judgement.

Responsibility & related documents

Behaviour management leads

Play Days Nursery	Imelda Rylatt, Lynn Shellard, Lana Shellard, Tracy Hubbard
Play Days Academy	Imelda Rylatt, Gemma Stodd, Anna Herbert

Related documents

- Behaviour Support Policy & Practice Guidance (staff document)
- Key Person Attachment & Attunement Policy
- SEND Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Risky Play policy

This policy is informed by the EYFS Statutory Framework (effective 1 September 2025), Section 3 — Safeguarding & Welfare: 'Supporting & understanding children's behaviour', & should be read alongside our Behaviour Support Practice Guidance.