ECD - Sexual Behaviour Policy

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Approved by:
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Policy Statement
All children need to be safe and protected from the sexual behaviour of other children. Although we recognise that being interested in their own and each other’s bodies and their differences is a healthy part of any child’s development, we are however aware, that inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour is potentially a safeguarding and child protection issue. A child displaying inappropriate sexual behaviour is possibly at risk and therefore we will follow the child protection procedure and offer appropriate support. Addressing inappropriate behaviour can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, harmful, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

At SDSS we use the Traffic-Light-Tool to determine, whether any sexual behaviour is part of a child’s normal development or whether there is cause for concern.

Procedure

- If any child displays any form of sexual behaviour, an incident report is completed immediately and the parents of all children involved are informed at the earliest opportunity either in person or by phone (not per e-mail).
- The incident will be dealt with immediately by a member of staff. They will
  o Stop the behaviour and make it clear that the behaviour is not acceptable in a gentle but direct way.
  o Examples of what to say in any given situation are: “In Kindergarten we always keep our clothes on.” – “We go to the toilet one at a time.” – “If anyone does anything you don’t like, say ‘stop it! I don’t like it’ – if they don’t stop, tell an adult.” – “If anyone says ‘stop it’ or doesn’t like what you are doing, you must stop straight away.”
  o Contact the parents of all children involved. Depending on the circumstance this will happen immediately by phone or at pick-up time.
This conversation needs to be recorded on the incident report form.
- Contact the DSL at the earliest opportunity or immediately depending on the incident.
- The DSL will be informed and depending on the circumstances will discuss the issue with local authorities.
- The teacher will arrange a time for a conversation with the child’s parents to discuss the issue. Useful information for this conversation can be found here: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/harmful-sexual-behaviour/
- A behaviour plan will then be created and shared with the DSL and the parents. This will state how any further incidents will be managed by adults. This includes parents, who will also need to be vigilant at home and respond consistently to the behaviour. The behaviour plan will be reviewed regularly with the DSL and parents.
- Procedures to be followed will be discussed at department meetings and agreed by all Early Years staff, so that responses to the behaviour are consistent and everyone follows the same procedure.

Information/advice/guidance:

Compliance:
References:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Sexual Behaviour Risk Assessments