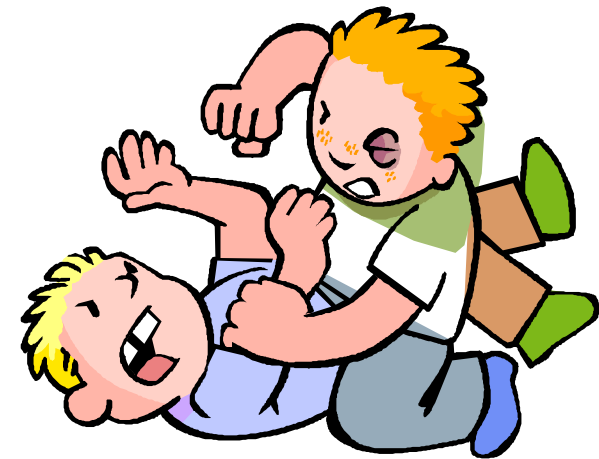


What do we do when physical aggression does occur?

Despite the best behaviour strategies and teamwork physical hurt may still occur. When this does you could consider some of these strategies.

- React calmly-use quiet tone of voice
- Remember to emphasise behaviour not liked NOT child
- "Naughty Boy" should be avoided
- Remove the child from incident by taking hand and leading away
- If this is not possible remove other children to somewhere safe
- Give little eye contact and attention to child who has hurt
- Give attention to the child who has been hurt
- Avoid the child who has hurt benefiting from their action e.g. by getting lots of attention, or getting the toy that caused the squabble
- Remove the child to a situation where they can stay and be safe
- Use egg timer to indicate to the child time away from group (this will be dependent on the age of the child). Very young children may need adult support. With all children the time away need only be very short.
- When time out done distract the child with an activity and quickly praise desired behaviour, giving them positive feedback about themselves

Specific challenging behaviour in the Early Years Physical Aggression



Physical Aggression

Most children will show physical aggression at some time in your setting. Snatching favourite toys, pushing other children out of the way can seem like everyday occurrences. Referring to setting promises and modelling gentle play, and alternative ways of requesting favourite toys works for most children.

For some children we may need to focus in on why kicking, hitting etc. is persistently occurring. Remember we always need to unpick the behaviour and act in three ways.

- 1) What do we do to avoid situation where children are more likely to be physically aggressive?
- 2) What we do when physical aggression not occurring?
- 3) What we do when physical aggression does occur?

In order to avoid children hitting, pushing etc we need to know what the triggers are. Careful observations using ABC or STAR will support this.

But as well as focussing on specific incidents we need always to look beyond at the bigger picture.

What do we do to avoid situations where children are more aggressive?

- ✓ Take time to observe the child to know what calms them down
- ✓ Avoid scarce resources. If toys are limited or new set up fair system for play e.g. timer, name cards to show which children waiting for turn

- ✓ Give plenty of time for extended play. Time can be a scarce resource!
- ✓ Have calm areas where children can chill out
- ✓ Model the use of these areas
- ✓ Observe your setting across routines and times of the day. Look at trigger times where behaviour "dips". Discuss these times with your team. Could they be avoided? Do children need visual clues? Do they wait too long?

What do we do when physical aggression not occurring?

- ✓ Give children lots of attention for playing gently and sharing
- ✓ Provide calming activities
- ✓ Teach children skills of asking for toys etc
- ✓ Adults model these
- ✓ Praise and reward sharing and playing gently
- ✓ Read stories related to hitting etc
- ✓ Discuss these with children
- ✓ Use puppet to promote discussion as above