

Anti-Bullying Policy

What is Bullying?

Bullying has been defined as 'the willful conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone' (*Tattum and Herbert 2002*)

We at Bunnahone Bunnies Cross Community Playgroup are committed to ensuring that no child, parent, or staff member feel intimidated at any time, and we are committed to providing a safe, caring and relaxed environment for everyone so that they can learn through play in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Types of Bullying

- **Verbal Bullying:** This is the most common type of bullying and it includes name calling, teasing, threats, and taunts.
- **Non-Verbal Bullying:** Non-verbal communication includes facial expression, body language and gesture.
- **Physical Bullying:** Physical bullying can be defined as any form of unwanted contact (i.e.) pinch, push, bite.
- **Exclusion Bullying:** This can be heard in phrases such as 'you're not coming to my house' and 'I don't like you'. This can also include being left out of the group.
- **Extortion Bullying:** This includes forcing someone to hand over play materials or valuables.
- **Hiding things:** Young children are sensitive about their possessions and become upset if their precious items go missing.
- **Spoiling Things:** This includes knocking down someone's work or destroying a game — this can be very distressing.

Possible Signs of being bullied:

- Unwillingness to attend playgroup.
- Becoming upset for no obvious reason.
- Visible signs of anxiety when entering certain situations.
- Loss of concentration and enthusiasm when taking part in activities.
- Unexplained mood swings
- Becoming withdrawn at group situations.
- Reluctance to speak out.
- Complaining about being unwell
- Soiling clothes

Preventing Bullying by Means of Good Practice:

- Providing a safe, secure, and happy environment.
- Promote positive behaviour
- Encourage children to respect each other.
- Encourage children to respect their environment i.e., equipment and resources.
- Ensure that staff are kept up to date with relevant training.
- Ensure that boundaries are adhered to.
- Encourage children to work and co-operate together.
- Promote and implement the 'Respecting Difference' Curriculum.

Discourage Bullying:

- To discourage bullying we will ensure that staff are aware of signs of bullying and are consistent with their approach.
- Bullying is tackled through the Curriculum i.e., role play, discussion time and co-operative play to develop social skills.
- Staff work in partnership with parents.
- Staff create opportunities for caring and sharing.
- Staff monitor and evaluate the situation
- Support is offered to both the child who is being bullied and the child who is doing the bullying.
- Staff have appropriate procedures for recording incidents