

HITTING POLICY

Deira Private School endeavours to maintain a positive discipline policy, which focuses on preventive actions, positive guidance, redirection, love, consistency and communication.

Children may hit others for a variety of reasons in order to gain attention or trying to test the limits, this is especially true for children hitting their parents or adults. On the other hand, children tend to hit other children due to frustration.

WHY IT HAPPENS

1. **Frustration and inability to communicate** - Most children resort to hitting because they don't have any other means of showing their frustration, as they can't put their feelings into words.
2. **Stress** - Children have a very little amount of self-control. With growing up already being a challenging and stressful task in itself, children usually lose all their self-control when they take the slightest of stresses.
3. **Want to feel in control** - Children want to control what happens to them and what happens in their surroundings. As a result, children often resort to hitting in order to assert themselves and in order to feel that they are in control.
4. **Attention** - Children crave attention and usually try and get it in a positive manner. However, children aren't afraid of getting the attention in a negative way if it gets them some attention at least.

WHAT WE DO ABOUT HITTING

1. **Preventive actions** – If we spot it early enough, sometimes inappropriate behaviour can be stopped before it has a chance to spiral out of control.
2. **Positive Guidance** - It is hard to prevent children from displaying inappropriate behaviour and young kids are still learning right from wrong. When something arises, we offer positive guidance through stating rules in a positive manner.

3. **Redirection** – We try to redirect child’s attention, offering a different age-appropriate activity than the one they are struggling with or having trouble cooperating with.
4. **Positive Time Out** – When a child is having a difficult moment, he/she is kindly invited to sit somewhere nearby to express his/her feelings and eventually cool down.
5. **Communication** – Parents will be notified immediately in case of major or reoccurring behavioural challenges.

WHEN HITTING OCCURS

- The child will be comforted and reassured.
- Assessment and first aid will be administered on the affected area by the Nurse.
- The teacher, nurse or manager will immediately contact the parents to discuss course of action.
- When the parents come to collect the child there will be an incident form completed by the teacher and by the nurse and the manager should always check and sign this, it will have all the information about the incident and any treatment given.

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