**At Steady Steps Nursery we understand that all Two year olds push boundaries. It is merely a way of testing out their independence. Challenging behaviour is often a cry for attention. Sometimes it is matter of just being aware when a child is tired. At other times it can invoke the need for clear, firm and consistent limits.**

We aim to support Two year olds in the Nursery to manage their feelings and behaviour by:

* Providing a predictable environment, with consistent routines.
* Thanking, and acknowledging a child’s positive behaviour.
* Ensuring the child’s Key person is responsible for supporting the child during times of conflict, or during periods of challenging behaviour. If the Key person is not there it will be the Room Leader.
* Using a calm tone of voice, and staying neutral to soothe the child.
* Giving the child our full attention as they learn to manage their feelings of anger/ frustration.
* Being respectful of a Two year old’s differing opinion, without compromising the boundaries set in place.
* Speaking to the child in the first person, i.e. ‘I cannot let you…’
* Acknowledging how the child is feeling i.e. ‘I can see you are angry, but…’
* Acknowledging the child’s point of view i.e. ‘I understand that you want to…’
* Offering choices, this helps a Two year old decide between two options.
* Using natural consequences to testing behaviour i.e. a toy that is being thrown will be removed.
* Offering autonomy, i.e. giving the child time to do something for themselves wherever possible.
* Provide opportunities to learn from conflict, by being patient, and honest and introducing empathy.

**When a two year old is understood, they will sense the empathy behind our limits and boundaries. Through respectful correction and modelling, Two year olds are capable and confident, and ready to learn.**