

Appropriate Contact

Our nursery believes that an appropriate level of adult physical contact is essential for the healthy emotional and social development of the children in our care.

We aim to provide a secure, caring and nurturing environment that supports the children's emotional and social development and will support them to establish considerate and caring relationships with other children and adults.

Methods:

Our staff will offer the appropriate level of physical contact for each individual child:

- When it is welcomed or requested by the child.
- To offer the child a sense of emotional well-being or security when they need to be comforted, reassured or calmed in anyway.
- To support the child's emotional and social development in an appropriate manner and encourage a sense of positive self-esteem and confidence.
- To ensure that their safety is protected.
- To prevent or remove any physical discomfort or emotional distress.

Appropriate contact can be described as follows:

Nurturing – This includes cuddles, hand holding, lap sitting or carrying. This type of contact is never made against the wishes of the child, whether expressed verbally or through body language or gesture. The intention is to offer comfort for a child when they are upset or distressed. It is also normal and healthy for children to express affection for their peers.

Safety and Guidance – Staff, who are qualified as first aiders may need to administer first aid to injuries. Guidance involves restraining children away from harmful situations, separating physically conflicting children or directing children by gently leading or guiding them.

Hygiene – This includes face and hand washing, nose wiping, assisting with bathroom duties appropriate to age and personal development of the child e.g. nappy changing or bottom wiping. Assisting with or conducting necessary clothing changes.

Discipline – Our staff never use physical punishment such as smacking or shaking. We do not tolerate thumping, kicking or slapping between children please refer to our Behaviour policy for further information.

All staff over seeing any of the above duties will be subjected to DBS clearances.

Unwelcome touch, where a child indicates that touch from an adult is not welcome, perhaps by moving away or flinching to avoid, the staff member should consider apologising to demonstrate a respect for personal boundaries.

All staff members have a responsibility to ensure that all practice at pre-School is safe and appropriate. We should all expect to be observed by others and be prepared to discuss any concerns we have in a professional manner. Any member of staff who is concerned about another member of

staff's practice should discuss their concerns with the supervisor or committee member as appropriate.

Links to other relevant policies:

- Safeguarding policy

This policy was adopted at a meeting of _____ name of setting

Held on _____ (date)

Date to be reviewed _____ (date)

Signed on behalf of the management
committee

Name of signatory

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)