



Ladybirds Preschool Physical Handling and Physical Contact Policy

(Revised 4th December 2024)

Working in conjunction with the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (EYFS).

Quality and Consistency.

A Secure Foundation.

Partnership Working.

Equality of Opportunity.

Unique Child Positive Partnerships Enabling Environment Learning and Developing

Introduction

At Ladybirds Preschool we recognise that children need to form close bonds with key persons in order to develop and grow in confidence.

There are occasions when children need to be cuddled, encouraged, held and offered physical reassurance. Intimate care routines during the session are essential to meet children's basic needs. Whilst being mindful of Child Protection issues, and relevant hygiene, we believe friendly, physical contact is central to warm, personal relationships and to the good quality care of young children. We believe that Early Years Practitioners are responsible for promoting the development of young children based on secure attachment and emotional security.

Procedures

Comforting

- If a child requires comforting as a result of an accident, or upset after parting from a parent, cuddles may be given.
- Occasionally, when a child is separating from his/her parent, it is necessary to physically support the transfer to the practitioner, with the adult's consent.
- Children are allowed to sit on an adult's knee, if doing so provides comfort or helps the child to settle, and he asks or agrees to this.
- Occasionally, there is no alternative to picking a child up, as a last resort, to prevent him harming himself or others, or to support him/her in being included in a group.
- Some activities instigated by the child himself, will be explained as not appropriate; for example, kissing etc.

Physical contact in play situations

- Appropriate physical contact during play, such as piggy backs, catching children as part of a game, holding children around the upper body to assist with jumping, stilts etc. is acceptable as long as the child willingly participates. Staff will be guided by the STEPS guidelines on physical contact.

Physical handling in relation to Behaviour Management

- In line with our Behaviour Management Policy, all staff will help and support children in taking responsibility for their own behaviour, including:
- Positive role-modelling
- Planning challenging activities
- Setting appropriate boundaries and expectations
- Positive feedback
- Positive handling or restraint must be kept to a minimum and only used to calm and de-escalate a situation.

Other Related Policies & Procedures

The following policies provide additional information regarding the safeguarding and welfare of the children in our care:

- *Administration of Medicines*
- *Anti-Bullying*
- *Children's Records Policy*
- *Children's Rights & Entitlement Policy*
- *Complaints*
- *Confidentiality & Client Access Policy*
- *Critical Incident Policy*
- *Daily Running Policy*
- *Employment & Staffing Policy*
- *Fire Safety & Emergency Evacuation Policy*
- *First Aid Policy*
- *Health & Safety Policy*
- *Key Person & Settling in Policy*
- *Looked After Children Policy*
- *Managing Children & Staff with Allergies Policy*
- *Nappy Changing Policy*
- *Outdoor Play Policy*
- *Outings & Visits Policy*
- *Parent Involvement Policy*

- *Positive Behaviour Policy*
- *Recording & Reporting of Accidents & Incidents Policy*
- *Risk Assessment Policy*
- *Safeguarding Policy*
- *Special Education Needs & Inclusion Policy*
- *Staff Behaviour Policy*
- *Staffing & Volunteers Policy*
- *Student Placement Policy*
- *Suitable Persons Policy*
- *Toileting Policy*
- *Uncollected or Lost Children Policy*
- *Working in Partnership Policy*

This policy will be monitored and evaluated at committee meetings. It will be reviewed bi-annually and unless new legislation or an incident occurs which requires an immediate review of this policy

December 2024

Review Date: December 2026

This Notice was adopted by the committee on 12/12/2024

Signed: *Jean De Paris*_____

Reviewed Date:

Signature:

Amendments: