

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Information and Records**

Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children.



### **1.8 Physical Contact Policy**

#### **Policy statement**

We work with children and their parents to ensure that they feel wanted and valued when in nursery. This is done in a variety of ways depending on a child's age and developmental stage.

Many of our children either do not understand or are still learning to understand the appropriateness of physical contact. Children look to us for approval and are testing out responses all the time.

It is often appropriate for children to be given some physical contact and comfort, but this is always offered under the following conditions:

#### **Procedures**

These procedures are to be viewed in the context of the age and developmental stage for example, a baby will need more physical contact than a child in the pre-school room.

- We always ensure there are other adults around.
- Never show favour to individual children.
- Where children require help with changing or toileting, the dignity of the child is maintained at all times. Great care is taken to ensure that all physical contact is specifically and only for the purpose of the operation being carried out.
- Never touch a child in a way that could be mis-interpreted as being anything other than friendly appropriate adult-child support.
- Where a child tries to get closer than appropriate, the responsible adult will re-direct the child's affection by teaching them appropriate behaviour whilst still making them feel wanted and valued.
- We give cuddles to comfort a child when hurt or upset.
- We never kiss a child, and do not encourage children to kiss adults other than their parents.
- A child should only sit on an adult's knee for a short time and for a specific reason such as following an injury or upset.
- For children within the nursery, appropriate relationships are still being established, and there is a greater need for a more nurturing environment where it may be more appropriate for closer physical contact during some activities. The above still applies, with the exception of sitting on a knee and longer cuddles may be more acceptable until the child is established and confident in nursery.

## Children's Response to Touch

Staff are always aware that all children interpret and react to touch in different ways. Some children are over-demonstrative and try to demand a great deal of affection and physical contact, whilst others shy away from or have a dislike of physical contact. We must never assume that a child will accept a touch that is meant as a friendly gesture.

There may be children in our care who have backgrounds where there has been inappropriate physical contact, or even emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. These children will be confused about adult-child contact and will need very sensitive support and care. Wherever there is physical contact, this must be seriously considered.

## Emergency Procedures for Physical Intervention

Staff have a 'duty of care' to all children in Jolly Tots nursery. If a child is becoming a danger to him/her self or others, we take action as appropriate for the age and stage of development of the child. Our first line of approach will be verbal if the child has the required level of understanding. There may be the need however to intervene physically to stop a child putting themselves or others in danger.

Where this might happen, the intervention must be using minimal force, and only enough to stop the incident.

The child(ren) must be made aware of what is going to happen if the situation does not stop.

In an escalating or dangerous situation, reasonable, calm, and considered responses could be:

- Blocking a child's path
- Holding, pushing, or pulling away from the incident
- Leading by the arm
- Picking up the child to remove them from the area

Such an incident must be reported fully in writing to Ginny Jowett or Lee Davison at the first opportunity, preferably the same day and never more than 24 hours after the incident.

This policy was adopted by	Jolly Tots Pre-School Nursery	(name of provider)
on	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025	(date)
Date to be reviewed	September 2026	(date)
Signed on behalf of the management		
Name of signatory & Role	Lee Davison    Manager	