



Magdalene Preschool

Appropriate Touching policy

Safeguarding

All adults who come into contact with children and young people in their work have a duty of care to safeguard them and promote their welfare.

There is no legal ban on physical contact between children and practitioners. The Children Act 1989 places the wellbeing of the child at the centre of keeping them safe and does not prevent staff from helping with ordinary basic physical needs.

The Early Years Foundation Stage 2021 states:

3.53 "Providers must not give or threaten corporal punishment to a child and must not use or threaten any punishment which could adversely affect a child's well-being."

3.54 "Providers must take all reasonable steps to ensure that corporal punishment is not given by any person who cares for or is in regular contact with a child, or by any person living or working in the premises where care is provided."

Magdalene preschool recognises that forming close relationships with children in their early years setting, is essential to enable children to develop and grow as individuals with a real understanding of social responsibility and self esteem.

We acknowledge that touch is a necessary part of the development, emotional wellbeing, care and education of all young children. Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure.

The positive use of touch as a normal part of human reaction and the developmental age, emotional and communication needs of the individual child recognised as being far more important than actual age. We understand younger children will need more physical contact than older pre-school children nearing school entry and our day to day practice will be reflective of that.

Our Aim:

- We will give guidance and support to children by holding their hands to demonstrate and assist their fine motor skills if required.
- We will provide emotional support including comfort and reassurance when a child is distressed.
- We will provide intimate care i.e. nappy changing (Please also see intimate care policy)
- We will provide first aid to any child that requires it

All staff are aware and believes physical contact is central to warm, personal relationships and to the good quality care of young children, we also believe that good quality practice encompasses a full understanding of safeguarding

Other relevant policies:

Safeguarding.

Intimate care policy.

Physical intervention policy.

Signed.....Date.....

On behalf of the management committee