



## Appropriate Contact Policy

### Aim of Policy

At Peapod Pre-School we aim to provide a nurturing, caring and secure environment that supports each child's personal, social and emotional development. We believe that an appropriate level of adult physical contact is essential when supporting healthy emotional and social needs of children. In turn, this will help children to establish positive relationships with both their peers and adults.

### Our Methods

Staff will only offer the appropriate level of physical contact for each child:

- When it is welcomed or requested by the child.
- To offer the child a sense of emotional well-being or security should they require comfort, reassurance or need to be calmed in any way.
- To 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.

### Nurturing

Young children often need comfort and reassurance, particularly if distressed or upset. We recognise that hugs, hand-holding and carrying can fulfil these needs. Our staff would never carry out this type of contact against the wishes of the child. Affection for their peers should be viewed as healthy and we encourage our children to offer support to others if appropriate.

### Safety and Guidance

Staff, who are qualified as first aiders, may need to administer first aid to injuries. Staff may also need to physically intervene in particular situations for the safety of the child/children involved. Examples of situations include when a child is involved in physical conflict with another child or could be attempting to harm his/herself. At all times staff are aware of the safety of the child/children involved and would use appropriate contact, such as guiding, gently leading or carrying in order to diffuse situations.

See **Behaviour Policy** for further information.

### Hygiene

By this we refer to face and hand-washing, nose wiping, assisting with bathroom duties appropriate to the age and personal development of the child, eg. nappy

changing or bottom wiping and assisting with or conducting necessary clothing changes\*.

\*Toileting duties, including nappy changing, bottom wiping and changing of clothing are undertaken by employed staff who will be subjected to the necessary DBS checks.

See **Safeguarding** and **Nappy Changing Policies** for further information.

### **Discipline**

We promote a 'kind hands' approach and our staff would never use physical punishment on a child. We do not tolerate thumping, kicking or hitting amongst the children, and will talk to them should situations arise.

See **Behaviour Policy** for further information.

## **Other Related Policies & Procedures**

The following policies provide additional information:

- Safeguarding (including Child Protection) Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Nappy Changing and Toileting Policy

Reviewed by **Fran O'Neill & Sarah Riley, Managers and Katie Moore, Chair**  
April 2020

Date for Review: **April 2021**