PHYSICAL CONTACT POLICY
NURSERY

Approved by: SLT

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Scope: Ashbridge Nursery Hutton, Ashbridge-on-Ribble Nursery, Ashbridge Nursery at Maxy Farm, The Fledglings Nursery

Introduction

Practitioners caring for young children need to have close physical contact to support their emotional needs, basic care routines, and to provide a safe and secure environment. This includes daily interactions such as:

- Providing comfort and emotional support to a distressed child through a cuddle
- Providing intimate care such as nappy changing or toileting
- Providing first aid or applying suncream
- Giving guidance, such as supporting climbing or balancing how to use a piece of equipment

Physical contact

All children respond to physical contact and touch in different ways, some children may prefer affection and physical contact, whilst others may avoid it. Generally physical contact should be child-led and based on the child's verbal and non-verbal cues.

In line with our ethos- "empowering young minds through respect and nurture", all interactions with children should be nurturing and respectful. All care routines follow our intimate care policy and are carried out with dignity and privacy.

Physical Intervention

Physical intervention is acceptable only when averting immediate danger of injury to the child or anyone around them or to manage behaviour when absolutely necessary. In this case, it should be used for the shortest time possible to deescalate the situation and with minimal force. Whenever possible another adult should be present to provide support.

Practitioners must never use physical contact as punishment or control.

Recording and reporting Physical Intervention

All incidents of physical intervention should be recorded on CPOMS, and parents informed the same day.

Training

All practitioners receive training in Safeguarding and Child Protection, as well as understanding and supporting children's wellbeing and behaviour.

Complaints

Any concerns or allegations regarding physical contact or the use of physical intervention will be treated as a safeguarding matter and escalated to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Safeguarding procedures will be followed in full, including referral to external agencies such as the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).