

15-Physical Touch Policy

Aim: To ensure everyone is aware of the nurturing procedures we use at Woodentops.

This policy sets out how we will use positive handling to promote a child's well-being and to carry out our duty of care. It also sets out the procedure we will follow in the case of physical intervention being required.

This policy is used in conjunction with our '**Positive Behaviour Management**' policy.

Positive handling includes two types of touch: **Procedural** and **Nurturing**.

Procedural is used within our setting to help children with their physical needs and development, **Nurturing** is used to comfort and encourage children. Examples of positive handling in our care include:

- Giving a child a cuddle when they are upset.
- Providing intimate care, such as changing a child's nappy, helping them use the toilet or changing clothes.
- Helping a child to learn, for example through helping a child to hold a crayon or paintbrush for example.
- Holding a child's hand when out and about.
- Providing First aid.

We are conscious that every child is unique in his/her preference for how they want physical contact, and we are sensitive to each child's response to touch. Further, cultural backgrounds may dictate what types of positive handling are appropriate. Therefore, if we feel it's necessary, we will discuss physical strategies with the child's parents / carers.

Physical Intervention

There may be times when we will need to use physical intervention in our practice. Physical intervention is defined in the EYFS: "Physical intervention is where practitioners use reasonable force to prevent children from injuring themselves or others or damaging property." (P34 footnote 49, EYFS 2024).

Clause 3.59 of the EYFS also allows physical intervention to manage a child's behaviour if necessary, although it cannot be used as a punishment.

We do not use physical intervention as a behaviour management tool. Please see our **Positive Behaviour Management policy** for details of how we promote positive behaviour in our setting.

Physical intervention procedure

- Whenever possible we use non-physical intervention methods to stop a child from injuring themselves or others or damaging property. This may be by diverting their attention or giving them a verbal instruction to stop.
- If we need to use physical intervention, we will use as little restrictive force as necessary to maintain safety.
- We will record all incidences of physical intervention. Details recorded will include what was happening prior to the intervention, what intervention was required and what happened after the intervention.
- We will inform parents and/or carers on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable.
- We will discuss potential future approaches to reduce the likelihood of the need for further physical intervention.

This policy was adopted on	25 th March 2019
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