

## Positive Physical Handling of Children

This procedure also links to:

- Promoting positive behaviour and self-regulation in young children
- Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Procedure to follow if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of Fennies Nurseries
- Fennies disciplinary policy
- Procedure for making notifications to Ofsted

This document has been produced to provide supplementary guidance to be used alongside our Promoting positive behaviour and self-regulation in young children. Its aim is to offer guidance to practitioners regarding the positive physical handling of children in every day practice. **Failure to follow this guidance may result in disciplinary procedures being followed.**

The positive use of touch is a normal part of human interaction. Touch might be appropriate in a range of situations, for example:

- giving guidance to children (such as how to hold a paintbrush or when climbing)
- providing emotional support (such as placing an arm around a distressed child)
- physical care (such as first aid or toileting).

It is important that adults only touch children in ways that are appropriate to their professional or agreed role, and responsibilities. The following guidelines offer examples of appropriate ways to do this:

- Move slowly and smoothly when lifting and holding a baby and always support their head as they are not yet strong enough to do this for themselves, and it will wobble uncomfortably without a helping hand from you.
- When you're picking a baby up, slide one hand under their bottom and one under their head, with your forearm giving extra support to their spine, before lifting them slowly and carefully towards you. It's a good idea to talk to them before you lift, so they don't feel panic-stricken when plucked suddenly from their comfy, stable position.
- Reverse this action when putting them down.
- The traditional way to hold a baby is cradled in the crook of your elbow, close to your body, with their head supported by your upper arm.
- When approaching a baby or child to pick them, always bend and talk to them to explain why you are picking them up.
- Always pick babies and children up by placing both hands under the child's armpits and holding their torsos. Use the same method to place them back down again.

## Safeguarding implications

When physically handling children, it is important to adhere to the following guidance:

- Never pick them up by their wrist or at any other point on their arms and never restrain or refrain them in any way nor pull them by their legs or ankles.
- Never restrain a child or force them to lay down
- Never forcefully sit a child down
- Never grab a child by their wrist or arm, or pull them by their wrist or arm
- Never turn a child's head towards you to gain eye contact or their attention.
- Never push or pull a child
- Never forcefully feed a child.

Failure to follow this guidance could cause the potential to physically injure and cause emotional distress to children. If it is alleged that any member of Fennies staff has failed to adhere to this guidance our safeguarding procedures in relation to allegations against staff will be implemented:

- We follow the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board when responding to any complaint that a member of staff or volunteer within the setting, or anyone living or working on the premises occupied by the setting, has abused a child.
- We normally refer any such complaint immediately to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to investigate and/or offer advice.
- We may also report any such alleged incident to Ofsted
- Where the management team and children's social care agree it is appropriate in the circumstances, the member of staff or volunteer will be suspended for the duration of the investigation. This is not an indication of admission that the alleged incident has taken place, but is to protect the staff, as well as children and families throughout the process.

*Internal use only*

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date disseminated to staff</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
<i>August 2019</i>			<i>August 2020</i>