

Positive Physical Handling of Children

This procedure also links to:

- Promoting positive behaviour procedure
- Safeguarding children procedure
- Procedure to follow if an allegation of abuse is made against a member staff procedure
- ICP disciplinary policy
- Procedure for making notifications to Ofsted

Policy Statement

This document has been produced to provide supplementary guidance to be used alongside our Promoting positive behaviour Procedure. It's aim is to offer guidance to practitioners regarding the positive physical handling of children in everyday 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.

Positive Handling of Babies and Young Children

- Move slowly and smoothly when lifting and holding a very young 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.
- The traditional way to hold a very young baby is cradled in the crook of your elbow, close to your body, with their head supported by your upper arm.

- When you're picking a very young 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.
- Never pick baby up from behind, always face them. Talk to them before you lift and explain why you are picking them up, so they don't feel panic-stricken when plucked suddenly from their comfy, stable position.
- Reverse this action when putting them down.
- Always pick toddlers and young 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 shake a child, not even in play
- Never shake the cot or bed they are sleeping in
- Never physically force a child to sit or lay down
- Never pick them up by their wrist or at any other point on their arms or legs
- Never grab a child by their wrist, arm, legs or ankles or pull them by their wrist, arm, legs or ankles
- 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
- Never restrain 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 ICP Nurseries staff has failed to adhere to this guidance our safeguarding procedures in relation to allegations against staff will be implemented:

- We normally refer any such allegation 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.