

15-Physical contact 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 '**Managing Behaviour**' 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 physical care, such as changing a child's nappy.
- Helping when using the toilet or changing clothes after an accident.
- Helping a child to learn, for example through helping a child to hold a crayon.
- Holding a child's hand when out and about.

We are conscious that every child is unique in his/her preference for how they want physical contact, and we will be 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 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 57).

Clause 3.54 of the EYFS also allows physical intervention to manage a child's behaviour if absolutely necessary, although it cannot be used as a punishment. We do not use physical intervention as a behaviour management tool. Please see our **Managing Behaviour policy** for details of how we promote good 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.

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Policy reviewed	31/12/21
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