



Physical Contact Policy

In our nursery, we recognise the importance of appropriate physical contact as part of providing a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment for young children. Positive physical contact can be reassuring, comforting, and help foster secure relationships. However, we approach physical contact carefully to respect each child's personal boundaries and to ensure their safety and well-being. Our guidelines are as follows:

- **Comfort and Reassurance:** We may offer hugs, pats on the back, or handholding to provide comfort or reassurance, especially when children are feeling upset or need extra support. Staff are trained to recognize when a child seeks comfort and when they prefer personal space.
- **Personal Boundaries:** We respect each child's personal space and only engage in physical contact when it's welcomed or necessary for their safety, such as during accidents, first aid, or guidance in activities.
- **Hygiene and Care Tasks:** When physical contact is necessary for care tasks—like nappy changes, assisting with dressing, or helping with hand-washing—staff follow strict hygiene protocols and always treat children with respect, maintaining privacy and dignity.
- **Safe Play and Interaction:** Physical contact during play is kept gentle and non-intrusive. We encourage positive, respectful interactions between children and gently guide them in how to express affection appropriately.
- **Training and Awareness:** All staff members are trained in safeguarding and child protection to ensure physical contact is appropriate and beneficial for the child's emotional and physical well-being.

Our goal is to provide a warm and secure environment where children feel valued, respected, and comfortable. If you have any questions about our approach to physical contact, please feel free to discuss them with us.

This policy was adopted by	Teddy Bears Childcare
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Name and role of signatory	Leahna Welch (Deputy Manager)