

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH CHILDREN

New Millside Pre-school cares for children from the age of 2 to 4 ½ years. During their time with us there will inevitably be occasions when the staff will need to have close physical contact with the children in their care. We feel this contact is vital for young children, in order to help them develop into well balanced, secure, happy individuals, ready to meet the new challenges of school and beyond. However, we are very aware of the need for clear boundaries for physical contact in order to protect everyone involved.

Instances that would involve physical contact include the following:

REASON FOR CONTACT	ACCEPTABLE CONTACT	UNACCEPTABLE CONTACT
Consoling & reassuring a child who was upset, possibly due to an accident or disagreement, a child struggling to separate from a parent or carer	Cuddling child, sitting on your knee. Occasionally, when separating a child from a parent/carer it is necessary to physically remove/transfer the child to a member of staff with the adult's consent. Sitting child on adult knee. Occasionally there is no alternative but to pick a child up - for Health & Safety reasons this is a 'last resort'.	Kissing better
Toileting children who still require adult support	Lifting, supporting children on the toilet, helping them to point their 'willy' down the toilet. Wiping bottoms, older children will be encouraged to do this for themselves, main door into toilets is always open, but modesty will be preserved. Adults will always talk to children about what is happening and why.	NEVER touching child's private parts, rather the adult may direct the child's hand to help themselves.
Changing the clothing of a child who may have soiled themselves	Quickly undressing and redressing child, this may involve removing underwear and replacing with clean clothes. Cleaning soiled body parts with wet wipes. Colleagues will always be made aware that child and staff member have left the room to deal with the situation, again main toilet door is always open.	Intimate or sustained contact with body.
Restraining a child for their own protection or the protection of others (behaviour management)	Holding a child across their bodies from behind, using gentle to firm pressure as necessary, until the child has calmed down sufficiently. There will always be more than one adult present.	Unacceptable force, e.g. causing reddening of the skin
Helping with dressing-up clothes, adjusting clothing (e.g. tucking shirts, vests etc. into skirts/trousers)	General contact with body	Intimate or sustained contact with body
Holding hands, such as for reassurance, in circle games & role-play or for safety reasons i.e. going to recycling / post box	Gently holding hands	Unacceptable force
Sitting children on adult's knee during pre-school routine	Putting arm or arms around the child	Unreasonable force, intimate contact
Physical play	Catching child as part of an agreed game, holding child around upper body, e.g. assisting them on bikes, stilts, helping them to jump, bounce, hop etc. Although such games and activities may be initiated by the child, there will be occasions when it may be adult-led. It is vital any contact must be on the child's terms and with their willing participation. The adult must always be sensitive to the child's feelings and body language as they may not always communicate verbally.	Unreasonable force, intimate contact

- We use the term 'willy' to be used in toileting as we assume this to be the most commonly used name amongst families.