

HARDMOOR EARLY YEARS CENTRE



Positive Touch Policy

At Hardmoor Early Years Centre we believe that positive touch is an important part of a child's development both physically and emotionally. It helps children to form warm, caring and positive relationships to adults and other children. We also know and understand the importance that staff are clear what is appropriate touch and that parents are reassured that their child is cared for.

Touch can demonstrate affection and provide reassurance for a child. It is part of all children's intimate care routines, especially for babies and young children who require nappy changing and toileting assistance.

At Hardmoor we ensure that a child feels comfortable with staff who take part in their intimate care routines, this is achieved through our settling in procedures at the centre and being aware of children's relationships with staff.

Situations where touch may be used;

Intimate Care Routines

Nappies and toileting assistance are done by the child's key person, if this is not possible it is done by a familiar member of staff who the child feels comfortable with and is always done in respectful and caring way.

When children are put in their cots or on their mats for their sleep there will be an element of positive touch to ensure they are dressed appropriately and are comforted ready for sleep.

Comfort

If a child is upset or ill, touch is used to comfort, reassure and provide affection. This may be in the form of a cuddle, holding hands or sitting on staff's lap. When children and babies wake from their nap comfort and affection is shown through touch.

A gentle touch on the shoulder or arm to show praise or reassurance is used for children rather than doing it verbally. This kind of touch can be confidence boost for a child's self-esteem.

Daily Activities

During physical play children may be offered a hand to help them to use equipment or take part in a physical action like jumping from a step or climb the slide. Also during regular activities through-out the day there may be touch used to support using physical equipment such as learning to use scissors, pouring their own drink or even cutting their own food.

As you can see we believe that touch not only has a positive effect for children emotionally but supports their learning and physical care routines.

We are always looking at and improving what we do and review our policies regularly to ensure the best outcomes for families that use our centre.

This policy was adopted/reviewed at a meeting of the Whole Governing Body of Hardmoor Early Years Centre, held 5th July 2018.

Date to be reviewed: Summer 2021

Signed:  *Print Name: Vikki Maxwell*
(Chair of Governors)