




# Safe Touch and Positive Handling

This Policy document relates to the operation of:  
GBNFC Group

Grendon & Billesley Nursery at Grendon Rd, B14 4RB  
GBNFC Children's Centre- based at the Chinnbrook Centre  
GBNFC Group at the Chinnbrook Centre B13 OET  
Hollywood Pre-school Daycare - based at Hollywood J & I School B14 4TG

Date Agreed by the Management Board: January 2020

Review: January 2021

Signature: 

## Safe Touch and Positive Handling Policy

We believe that children have the right to independence, choice and inclusion, and we seek to provide opportunities for personal growth, and emotional health and well-being.

All staff at these settings are not permitted to use any form of corporal punishment. There are some forms of physical intervention, which may involve minimal physical contact, such as blocking a child's path or the practitioner interposing themselves between the child and another child or object.

### Different Types of Touch

Casual/informal, incidental touch - practitioners use touch with children as part of a normal relationship, for example, comforting a child, giving reassurance and congratulating. This might include taking a child by the hand, patting on the back or putting an arm around the shoulders. The benefit of this action is often proactive and can prevent a situation.

General - This is used by practitioners working with children who are having difficulties with their emotions. Healthy emotional development requires safe touch as a means of calming, soothing and containing distress for a frightened, angry or sad child. Touch used to regulate a child's emotions triggers the release of the calming chemical oxytocin in the body. Reparative touch may include stroking a back, rocking gently, cuddling, tickling, sitting on an adult's lap.

Contact play is used by practitioners adopting a role similar to a parent in a healthy child-parent relationship. This will only take place when the child has developed a trusting relationship with the adult and when they feel completely comfortable and at ease with this type of contact. Contact play may include an adult chasing and catching the child or an adult and child playing a game of building towers with their hands.



However, in some circumstances, direct physical contact may be necessary. In some exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to physically restrain a child in order to prevent:

- personal injury to themselves
- personal injury to another child or adult
- immediate danger of death to themselves
- immediate danger of death to another child or adult
- Serious damage to property.

Under these circumstances staff will not be in breach of the law.

The setting staff will make the judgement to positive handling a child only when there is a real or potential danger. The child will only be restrained by holding them until the danger has passed and they will be released as soon as it is safe to do so. The child will then be spoken to, preferably in a quiet area. They will be calmed and reassured by the staff. An explanation will be given to the child as to why they were positively handled using language appropriate to their understanding.

Parents will be informed as soon as possible of the incident.

Any occasions when positive handling is used will be recorded on a Positive Handling Form completed by the member of staff responsible for the positive handling and include witness signatures. Parents will be requested to sign the form and be provided with a copy.

If training is required this will be implemented.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH' or similar, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

