Sticky Fingers Pre-School
Abbas and Templecombe Church School,
School Lane, Templecombe, Somerset, BA8 0HP.
Telephone no. 07742895967 / Email manager@stickyfingerspreschool.org
Registered Charity no. 1029754 / www.stickyfingerspreschool.org

Code of Conduct for Physical Contact with Children

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Sam Collinson

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Heather Holland

Sticky Fingers Pre-school cares for children from the age of 2 to 5 years old. During their time at pre-school, inevitably there will be occasions when the staff will need to have close physical contact with the children in their care. Indeed, we feel close physical contact is vital for young children in order to help them develop into well-balanced, secure, happy little 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 and reassuring a child who was upset, possibly due to an accident or disagreement, or maybe a child struggling to separate from a parent or carer	Cuddling child, sitting child 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 adult's consent.	'Kissing better'
Toileting children who still require adult support	Lifting, supporting children on the toilet, helping boys to point their 'willy'* down into toilet. Wiping bottoms following bowel movement. Older children will be encouraged to do this for themselves. Toilet door will always be left 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 & redressing child – 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 gone into the bathroom to deal with soiling, the bathroom door is always open.	Intimate or sustained contact with body.
Changing the nappy of a child	Only removing the clothing that is necessary to order to change the child's nappy Cleaning soiled body parts with wet-wipes. Colleagues will always be made aware that child and staff-member have gone into the bathroom to deal with changing a nappy, the bathroom 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, eg causing reddening of the skin
Helping with dressing up clothes, adjusting clothing (eg 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	Gently holding hands	Unacceptable force
Sitting children on adult's knee during pre-school routine (eg sharing a story, reinforcing good behaviour, at child's request)	Putting arm or arms around the child,	Unreasonable force, intimate contact.
Rough & Tumble Play, Physical play	Piggy backs, tickling, catching child as part of an agreed game, holding child around upper body, eg 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 recommend the term 'willy' to be used in toileting as we assume this to be the most commonly used name amongst families.

If an adult needs to use physical intervention at any time to ensure the safety of a child or to ensure the safety of others, the adult must complete a Physical Intervention form and take a photocopy of it. On collection of the child, the parent/carer of the child must be shown the completed form and asked to sign both copies. The original should be retained for the child's personal records and the copy handed to the parent/carer.

This policy was adopted by Sticky Fingers Pre-School

On 6th October 2026

Date to be reviewed October 2027

Signed by Chairperson



Name of Chairperson Ashley Panton