

# Safeguarding Children

## Touch Policy



### Policy Statement

At Roughton Under 5's Playgroup we recognise that forming close relationships with children in their early years is essential to enable children to develop and grow as confident individuals with a real understanding of social responsibility and self esteem. We acknowledge that touch is a necessary and desirable part of the development, emotional well-being, care and education of all young children. We see touch as an everyday act of communication by physical means and this policy demonstrates what that might look like. To facilitate this all children will have a named key person who will develop a genuine bond and offer a settled close relationship.

### Procedures

The positive use of touch is a normal part of human interaction and the development age, emotional and communication needs of the individual child are recognised as being far more important than actual age. We understand that babies and younger toddlers will need more physical contact than older pre-school children nearing school entry and our day to day practice will be reflective of that.

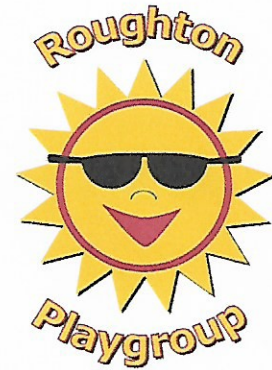
Although, we believe physical contact is central to warm, personal relationships and to the good quality care of young children we also believe that good quality practice encompasses a full understanding of child protection and safeguarding and this is reflected in our policy and practice.

Touch is appropriate for:

- Developmentally age appropriateness (babies).
- Giving guidance to children (such as how to hold a paintbrush, or when climbing).
- Providing emotional support – i.e comfort and reassurance (such as placing an arm around a distressed child).
- Physical/intimate care (such as first aid or toileting).

Some of our methods are:

- Holding children gently to reassure them.
- Sitting a child on a lap to give comfort when they are upset.
- Holding a child's hand to guide them.
- Lifting a child to remove them away from a potential dangerous situation.



As a Playgroup we acknowledge the close emotional bond that will develop between the child and key person, however, we will ensure that this does not undermine the child's attachment with their parent.

This policy was adopted on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Last reviewed on 10th November 2017

Signed on behalf of the committee by the Chairperson

*Chloe Bennett*

Date –

*10/11/17*