

Touch Policy

Statement of Intent

Bishy Barnabees recognises that forming close relationships with children in their early years setting, is essential to enable children to develop and grow as individuals with a real understanding of social responsibility and self-esteem. Bishy Barnabees acknowledge that touch is a necessary and desirable part of the development, emotional wellbeing, care and education of all young children.

To facilitate this, all children at Bishy Barnabees will have a named Key-person who will develop a genuine bond and offer a settled and close relationship. (See our Key person policy).

Aim

The positive use of touch as a normal part of human reaction and the developmental age, emotional and communication needs of the individual child recognised as being far more important than actual age. We understand 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.

Methods

In order to achieve this aim, we operate the following touch policy:

- We will give guidance and support to children by holding their hands to demonstrate and assist their fine motor skills if required.
- We will provide emotional support including comfort and reassurance when a child is distressed.
- We will provide intimate care i.e. nappy changing/first aid as required.
- We acknowledge the close emotional relationship that will develop between the child and key person, however, we will ensure that this does not undermine the child's attachments with their parent.
- All staff have a 'Duty of Care' towards the children in their care.
- All staff should be aware that Bishy Barnabees believes 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 safeguarding (child protection) and this is reflected in our policy and practice. (See our Safeguarding policy)

This policy was adopted in December 2014, updated in July 2015.

Reviewed March 2017

