GEMS TINEY HOME NURSERY

HOME FROM HOME CHILDCARE

Physical Contact Policy

Purpose

Warm, appropriate physical care helps children feel secure at Gems tiney Home Nursery. Adults use touch for the child's benefit, including comfort, personal care, safe movement, first aid and protection from immediate danger. Contact must be professional, proportionate and responsive to the individual child.

Choice comfort and boundaries

We notice verbal and non-verbal signals, explain what we are doing and ask or invite agreement wherever possible. Children may choose a cuddle, a hand to hold or reassurance without touch. Adults do not insist on affection, kisses, sitting on laps or physical greetings and stop optional contact when the child shows discomfort.

We consider age, communication, sensory needs, disability, culture and previous experiences. Parents can share helpful approaches and preferences. A child who seeks comfort is not automatically denied appropriate caring contact, and a child who avoids touch is offered another way to feel safe.

Necessary care and safety

A child's assent is important, but an absolute rule that every touch requires consent would prevent necessary care or protection. Where essential hygiene, first aid or immediate safety requires contact, we explain simply, offer choices where practicable and use the least intrusive reasonable approach for the shortest time needed.

If a child resists routine care, we pause where safe, reassure them and consider timing, pain, communication or sensory factors. We agree an individual approach with parents

and relevant professionals if needed. Essential care is not withheld and distress does not justify force for adult convenience.

Hand-holding or other proportionate support may be necessary near traffic or another immediate hazard. Outings and care plans identify suitable support in advance. Contact is never sexual, humiliating, secretive or punitive.

Personal care and professional practice

Only suitable authorised adults provide intimate care. Children are supported to do what they can independently, with privacy balanced against safeguarding and supervision. Care is explained in familiar words and concerns about pain, injury or unusual responses are recorded and addressed.

No photographs or recordings are made during changing, toileting or undressing. Phones may be available for nursery work but app entries are completed after intimate care, when safe supervision allows. Adults maintain appropriate boundaries during play and do not use rough or intrusive touch.

Physical intervention

We use calm support, redirection and environmental changes wherever possible. Physical intervention is used only when lawful, necessary and proportionate, to avert immediate danger of personal injury or manage behaviour only if absolutely necessary under the EYFS. It is never punishment or a routine method of obtaining compliance.

Only the minimum force for the shortest necessary time is used, protecting breathing, dignity and individual needs. Intervention stops when no longer necessary and the child is reassured. Each occasion is recorded with the reason, action, people involved, duration, response, injury and follow-up. Parents are informed the same day or as soon as reasonably practicable. See the Behaviour Management Policy.

Concerns records and review

Any inappropriate contact, unexplained injury or concerning adult behaviour is reported promptly under safeguarding and allegations procedures. If Gemma is implicated or unavailable, an assistant refers directly to children's social care, police, LADO or tiney as appropriate. Immediate danger requires 999.

Routine comforting touch does not require an incident record, but significant concerns, injury, resisted care requiring an individual plan and physical intervention are recorded

appropriately. Gemma briefs assistants and reviews practice through supervision. Reviewed annually or sooner after a relevant incident or change. References: current EYFS childminder framework; Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026; related personal care, behaviour and safeguarding policies.

Policy owner: Gemma Bayley
Reviewed: November 2026
Next review due: November 2027