



## **Safe and Respectful Care Policy** **(Cuddling and physical reassurance)**

The safe and respectful care policy complements the Intimate Care Policy.

EYFS: 3.1, 3.6

At WildTime playgroup we believe that all children need to feel safe, secure and happy. This involves playgroup staff being responsive to children's needs, whilst maintaining professionalism.

This includes giving children cuddles, children sitting on the lap of staff members and holding hands.

To promote good practice and to minimise the risk of allegations we have the following guidelines:

- Although we recognise it is appropriate to cuddle children, we give cuddles only when sought by children needing comfort to support their emotional development. Staff are advised to do this in view of other children and practitioners, whenever possible. We recognise that there may be occasions where it is appropriate for this to happen away from others, such as when a child is ill or requires 1:1 attention. In these circumstances, staff are advised to leave the door open. It is the duty of all staff and the manager to ensure that children are appropriately comforted and to monitor practice
- We discourage inappropriate behaviour from staff and children such as over tickling, over boisterous play or staff seeking emotional validation from children (eg "do you love me?")
- Staff are respectful of each other and the children and families in the playgroup and do not use inappropriate language or behaviour, including during breaks
- We are child led and the children in our care are empowered and know that they have the right to say no or enough and that they will be listened to and obeyed.

If a parent or member of staff has concerns or questions about safe care and practice procedures or behaviour they consider as inappropriate, including between staff members, they are urged to see the manager at the earliest opportunity. Management will challenge inappropriate behaviour in line with the supervision/ disciplinary or whistleblowing procedures.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the playgroup</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
<i>[Insert date]</i>		<i>[Insert date]</i>