



Affection Policy:

We aim to assist your child to develop a sense of confidence, self-esteem and identity, for your child's safety and healthy development we believe it is crucial that all children learn appropriate boundaries in relationships. For example that it is not appropriate to kiss and cuddle complete strangers and that some forms of affection are kept for special close relationships.

For this reason we have devised a policy to inform our staff and parents/carers how we will help children to develop and understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

We understand that each child is an individual and this policy may need to be adapted to meet individual needs. In such cases, discussions will take place with parents/ carers and management.

- If a pre-verbal child is upset or distressed a cuddle will be instigated by staff. Older children will be asked if they would like a cuddle
- Kissing is not to be instigated or encouraged by members of staff
- If a child instigates a kiss from a member of staff this is acceptable but only on the child's cheek
- Other forms of affection will be encouraged such as waving, blowing a kiss or shaking hands
- Age appropriate explanations will be given to children and opportunities will be made to discuss and explore different types of relationships as part of the child's personal, social and emotional development
- Children will be given strategies to be assertive and keep themselves safe via the day care curriculum
- Certain words of description of a child i.e. sexy, gorgeous are not acceptable
- When a child is going to sleep it is acceptable to rub the child's arm, hand, cheek or back
- Staff will follow each child's cues regarding need for cuddles and not enforce affection where it is not wanted
- We discourage inappropriate behaviour such as over tickling, over boisterous play or inappropriate questions such as asking children to



tell them they love them and we advise staff to report any such observed practice.

- 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. 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.

If you have any queries or concerns about your child or would like to know how you can help your child to develop ways of keeping themselves safe, please ask a member of staff.