



Diggers Forest School

1c Safe care and practice

The safe care and practice policy may complement the intimate care policy.

At Diggers Forest School we believe that all children need to feel safe, secure and happy. This involves school staff being responsive to children's needs, whilst maintaining professionalism. This includes giving children cuddles and changing children's nappies or clothes.

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. It is the duty of all staff and the manager to ensure that children are appropriately comforted and to monitor practice
- When changing children's nappies or soiled/wet clothing, staff leave the door to the bathroom open, and narrate what they are doing to protect both themselves and the child
- 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
- Staff are respectful of each other and the children and families in the school and do not use inappropriate language or behaviour, including during breaks
- All staff are aware of the whistleblowing procedures and the manager carries out random checks throughout the day to ensure safe practices.

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. If the concern relates to the manager and/or school owner then parents should contact Ofsted 0300 123 1231 or the local authority children's social care team 01243 642127.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the school	Date for review
<i>January 2022</i>	<i>Alex Levitt</i>	<i>January 2023</i>