



**Children of the World
Montessori School**

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PHYSICAL CONTACT POLICY

Children of the World Montessori School teaches children from 16 months to 5 years old. During their time at school inevitably there will be occasions when staff need to have close physical contact with the children in their care. We are aware of the need for clear boundaries for physical contact in order to protect everyone involved.

Instances that would involve physical contact:

Reason for contact:	Acceptable contact	Unacceptable behaviour
Consoling and reassuring a child who was upset, possibly due to an accident or disagreement or maybe a child struggling to separate from a parent/carer	Cuddling a child, sitting a child on your knee. Occasionally, when separating a child from a parent/carer it is necessary to physically remove/transfer the child to a member of staff with the adult's consent. Sitting a child on an adult knee. (Occasionally there is no alternate to picking a child up, but for Health & Safety reasons this is a last resort)	'Kissing better'
Toileting children who still require adult support	Lifting, supporting children on the toilet, Wiping bottoms following bowel movement. Older children will be encouraged to do this themselves. Toilet door will always be left open but modesty will be preserved. Adults will always talk to children about what is happening and why.	NEVER touching a child's private parts, rather the adult direct the child's hand to help themselves.
Changing the clothing of a child who may have soiled themselves	Quickly undressing and redressing the child, this may involve removing underwear and replacing with clean clothes. Cleaning soiled body parts with wet wipes. Colleagues will always be made aware that child and staff member have left the room to deal with soiling.	Intimate or sustained contact with the body.
Restraining a child for their own protection or the protection of others (behaviour management)	General contact with body	Intimate or sustained contact with the body.

Helping with dressing up clothes, adjusting clothing i.e. tucking in shirts, vests to skirts/trousers	General contact with body	Intimate or sustained contact with body
Holding hands, such as for reassurance in circle games, role play or for safety reasons	Gently holding hands	Unacceptable force
Sitting on adult's knee if the child is upset and needs reassurance	Putting arm or arms around child	Unreasonable force or intimate contact
Physical play	Holding the child around the upper body e.g. when assisting them onto bikes, to jump or bounce on space hoppers etc. Although such games and activities may be initiated by the child there will be occasions when it may be adult led. It is vital that any contact must be on the child's terms and with their willing participation. The adult must always be sensitive to the child's feelings and body language as they may not always communicate verbally.	Unreasonable force or intimate contact