

Extratime

Safe Touch Policy

1. Staff members and volunteers workers can only touch children and young people:
 - to prevent imminent injury to person
 - o prevent serious damage to property
 - to provide planned care
 - to encourage or assist
 - to reinforce physical presence when touch is not resisted or rejected by the child/young person.
2. extratime management recognises that there are times when children/young people are in need of physical reassurance. Workers should feel comfortable with this so long as the child/young person accepts the gesture, is reassured by it and understands the workers intention.
3. Staff should not encourage children to sit on their laps or lie down on top of them etc. but can encourage staff to sit next to them so that they are safely touching if they are in need of reassurance.
4. Workers need to be aware that for children/young people who have suffered abuse, physical contact may have upsetting connotations and result in a negative reaction.
5. Cultural factors are significant with regard to physical contact and a child's/young person's culture needs to be respected.
6. Children/young people with special needs e.g. an autistic disorder, may be particularly averse to physical contact and need their own personal space.
7. Workers need to remember that some children/young people attending the projects are indiscriminate in their affections and in their approaches to unfamiliar adults and other children/young people. extratime aims to encourage children/young people to learn about appropriate touching. Inappropriate touching by children/young people should be discouraged and where possible the incident should be discussed with the child/young person

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