**SAFE CARE AND APPROPRIATE USE OF PHYSICAL COMFORT**

We believe that in order for children to learn and develop, they need to feel safe, secure and happy. This involves nursery staff being responsive to children’s holistic needs, whilst maintaining professionalism. To promote good practise and minimise the risk of allegations we:

* Recognise it is appropriate to cuddle young children. We give cuddles only when sought by children needing comfort, to support their emotional development.
* Adults will model and encourage respectful behaviour to the children.
* Discourage inappropriate behaviour such as kissing, or asking children to tell someone they love them.
* Challenge behaviour which could be considered inappropriate in line with whistle blowing and safe-guarding policies through supervisions, appraisals and disciplinary procedures where appropriate.

Policy revised November 2021 Lisa Gray