

# Appropriate Touch Policy



This policy was developed to advise those caring for children how to protect themselves from misinterpretations of their physical contact with children. This policy outlines situations that should be avoided if at all possible.

- Nurturing touch is very important to developing a sound relationship with young people. Children may be touched appropriately on faces, hands, shoulders, head and legs.
- Never touch a child in the area which should normally be covered by a bathing suit.
- Volunteers should never tickle children, it may be over-stimulating and may be considered to be a deceptive device that could lead to inappropriate touching.
- When seated a Volunteer should never allow a child to stand between their legs.
- Gently guide the child to your side. You may still speak eye to eye and comfort the child or talk quietly with them at your side when necessary.
- Holding school age and older children on your lap is not appropriate. Holding a pre-school child or toddler on your lap is appropriate for short time spans when comfort is needed.
- Never kiss a child. Never let a child kiss you on the lips.
- Never take a single child to an area where they may not be observed by others.
- Never enter a bathroom alone with a child. If PlayLeader support is required wait outside the bathroom door.
- If anything happens that you believe may put you at risk of accusation by anyone, please do not keep this a secret! A Play Leader should be informed and any appropriate action will be discussed with you.
- All activities and practices should be scheduled so that all children are within view of Play Leaders and other volunteers at all times
- First Aid should be administered as gently and respectfully as possible. Always ask for assistance if the child needs to be removed from a playing area.
- Always treat people with respect and in line with HOPS Equality Policy.

This policy was adopted by: HOPS	Date January 2016
To be reviewed annually	Signed: