# **Physical Contact Policy**

As an Ofsted registered Childminder I am very aware that each child has differing needs. Some children like to be affectionate and show it through hugs, kisses etc others are not so tactile. I am happy to hug, kiss (head or cheek) hold hands, cuddle, tickle etc your child providing both you and your child is happy with this. I would never force a child to do any of the above if it made them feel uncomfortable.

I will restrain a child only if they are at risk of inflicting harm on themselves or others. I will separate children if they are fighting. I will restrain a child if they try and run into the road etc. If I do need to restrain your child I will document it in my incident book and asked you to sign the record. This is to protect all parties.

I will also need to have some physical contact with your child in order to ensure hygiene routines are carried out. For example washing of hands, faces and the wiping of noses. I am happy to assist with toileting according to the age and stage of ability of the child and to change nappies if required. If necessary I will change a child’s clothes if they have had an accident.

Children over the age of four years will be encouraged to go to the toilet independently and I will assume that they are doing this at home unless you inform me otherwise. I will remind children about wiping themselves and washing hands, but unless you inform me otherwise I will not wipe your child’s bottom unless they request assistance, as some children may not be comfortable with this.

If you have any concerns or wish to discuss the matter further, or need to inform me about your child’s needs, please do not hesitate to let me know.

