



## **Sample Policy that Defines Appropriate and Inappropriate Affection Between Staff and Children**

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### ✓ *Appropriate Displays of Affection:*

- Side hugs.
- Shoulder to shoulder or “temple” hugs.
- Pats on the shoulder or back.
- Handshakes.
- “High-fives” and hand slapping.
- Verbal praise.
- Pats on the head when culturally appropriate.
- Touching hands, faces, shoulders, and arms.
- Arms around shoulders.
- Holding hands (with smaller children in escorting situations).

### ✓ *Inappropriate Displays of Affection:*

- Full frontal hugs.
- Kisses on the mouth.
- Touching bottoms, chests, or genital areas.
- Showing affection in isolated areas of the building, such as closets, staff only areas, or other private rooms.
- Staff sleeping in bed with a child
- Touching knees or legs.
- Wrestling with children.
- Piggyback rides.
- Tickling.
- Allowing a child to cling to a staff member's leg.
- Any type of massage given by a child to a staff member.
- Any type of massage given by a staff member to a child.
- Any form of affection that is unwanted by the child or the staff member.
- Compliments that relate to physique or body development.