

Safe Care Policy

Wandsworth Foster Carers:

a. Showing Affection

- i. Foster carer is aware of the importance of physical contact for children and will provide appropriate affection according to the child's age and experiences.
- ii. Foster carer are aware that some children may view physical affection as a prelude to abuse
- iii. Foster carer will, where appropriate, ask permission before kissing or cuddling a child, and ensure that the child knows it is ok to say no

b. Playing

- i. Except when playing alone, doors should be left open and foster carer should be able to easily hear or see what is going on.
- ii. Children who have been sexually abused should have close supervision whilst playing and careful consideration given to where they play.
- iii. Foster carer will dissuade play fighting unless carefully supervised.
- iv. Foster carer will avoid tickling and wrestling games.

c. Bedrooms

- i. Children should only share a bedroom where a risk assessment has been undertaken on the children.
- ii. Bedrooms should only be entered by invitation.
- iii. Bedrooms should not normally be used as play areas for other children.
- iv. Foster carer will try to think of ways to offer a child time for warmth and affection outside of the bedroom, e.g. bedtime stories downstairs.
- v. Foster carer will not lie or get into a child's bed.

d. Bathroom

- i. Children who are old enough and able to bath and wash themselves will have privacy in the bathroom.
- ii. If a child needs adult help and supervision, foster carer will be responsible for this and the door will be kept unlocked and slightly open.

e. Dress

- i. All family members will be appropriately dressed in communal areas.

f. Taking photos and videos

- i. Foster carer will ask the child's permission before taking photos and tell them whom they are for.
- ii. Foster carer will be sensitive to children's reaction to having photos taken, and report to the social worker any concerns.
- iii. Foster carer will not take photographs of children undressed or only in nightwear/ underwear.

g. Babysitting

- i. Foster carer will use adults only, and only people known and agreed by supervising social worker or the child's social worker. Babysitters should be CRB checked.
- ii. If foster carers are going to be out overnight or for a longer periods this must be known and agreed by the child's social worker and arrangements made.

h. Car Journeys

- i. Foster carer will think carefully about who travels alone in a car with a foster child. If there is any concern, and this is unavoidable the child should sit in the back.

i. Fostered Children going out

- i. Foster carer will need to obtain permission from their supervising social worker and child's social worker before agreeing for a child to stay outside the foster home. Foster carer to use delegated authority when appropriate.
- ii. Foster carer will ensure children have skills to keep themselves safe.

Sign Foster Carer

Date:

Sign Supervising Social Worker:

Date: