

## Staff Interaction with Children - A Code of Practise

The Galleon Centre aims to provide an environment in which there are caring and safe relationships between staff and children. For such relationships to develop, informed common sense and sound professional practice must be evident.

All staff should adopt the following principles:

- Treat everyone with respect.
- Always respect a child's right to personal privacy.
- It may be important and appropriate for you to be alone with a child. In these circumstances, try to ensure that others are within earshot, and preferably within vision. Never have the door locked. Where possible, maintain a gap/barrier between you and the child.
- Never make salacious, suggestive or demeaning remarks/gestures towards a child.
- Avoid any physical horseplay with a child, or any other actions another adult might misinterpret, no matter how innocent or well intentioned your actions may be.
- Always encourage children to feel comfortable and confident to point out to you attitudes or behaviour they do not like (including your own).
- 'Hands on' instructions/support should only be used when verbal or demonstration is inappropriate or it is necessary for health and safety reasons. When doing so verbalise your action/intention and where possible it should be done in earshot, and preferably within vision of others.
- The use of physical restraint on a child should involve the absolute minimum force necessary and is only permissible when you are certain that a child is at risk of endangering themselves, yourself, others or property. Where possible, summon a colleague to witness the situation and give you appropriate help.
- If another member of staff is seen to behave inappropriately with a child then you must not ignore it but share it with a senior member of staff.
- Do not believe 'it could never happen to me'.
- If you suspect that a child is becoming inappropriately attracted to you, you are strongly advised to share your concerns with a senior member of staff.
- **Remember: That no matter how innocent or well intentioned your actions might be, other people may misinterpret them.**

I will follow the Galleon Centres' Code of Practise to ensure the safety and well being of all children in our care .

Signed ..... Date .....

Print Name ..... Position .....