**Professional Love Policy**

Our practitioners at Kingfisher Kindergarten have a very positive and confident attitude to ‘Professional Love’ as a part of their role within the setting. Those that choose to, are comfortable in enacting professionally loving practices such as hugging and using sensitive touch, such as holding hands, to build security and attachment with the children. We feel with our role of looking after children of such a young age that showing affection, in the correct and professional manner, is an important part of early years practise. All our staff are confident and have good knowledge of non-statutory safeguarding guidance or advice relevant to their role. We will ensure any professional love will be appropriate and of value to the child for their learning and development, or to offer comfort when separating from a parent/carer or when they have hurt or injured themselves.

We will ensure that displays of affection, such as a comforting or reassuring hug or a child sitting on your lap at story time, must be initiated by the child and not the member of staff.

We recognise and will ensure that the child’s expressed wishes are respected and the child’s initiative is always of primary importance.

Professional Love will especially come into practise while settling in any new children where staff will seek to secure a bond with the child.

Types of Physical Love could include:-

Physical Expressions of Affection such as holding hands, stroking the child’s head, child sitting on the lap of a member of staff, a hug or a simple kiss on an injured finger of a child to ‘make it better’.

Verbal Expression of Affection where staff will reciprocate in kind to a child’s profession of love.

Appropriate action must always be taken in the event of any abuse or inappropriate behaviour.

This policy was adopted by Kingfisher Kindergarten Ltd

On 21st January 2019

Date to be reviewed Annually

Signed on behalf of the provider La-Ryne Baker

Role of signatory Owner