

Appropriate and Encouraged Interactions

Praise, encouragement, and acknowledgement

Affirmations of specific appropriate behaviors, positive reinforcement

Asking permission to touch for necessary purposes - Seek permission every time

Pats on back or shoulder with permission

Side hugs with permission

Handshakes and "high fives"

Warmth and kindness

Include parents and/or caregivers when contacting through text or other media formats

Touching and physical affection should always be observable by others

Stand in doorway while children are using restroom. If assisting younger children, door should remain open (for DCS staff)

Encourage and respect a child's right to say "No" to touches

No means No – Stop means Stop!

Inappropriate and Prohibited Interactions

Risqué jokes, profanity, sharing intimate personal details of one's life

Favoritism or preferential treatment toward one child over other children

Leaving children unsupervised

Inappropriate hugging

Contact outside of agency activities or inviting children to your home

Providing personal email or phone numbers

Private interactions through social media, computer, or handheld devices

Competition, comparison, and criticism of children/youth

Intimate displays of affection toward other staff/adults in front of children

Harmful and Prohibited Interactions

Patting buttocks

Actions or speech that humiliates, threatens, ridicules, degrades or frightens child/youth

Corporal punishment of any kind

Physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, emotional abuse and/or neglect

Touching of private areas other than in the course of necessary care: face, mouth, legs, breasts, stomach, genitals

Intimate, romantic, or sexual contact

Showing pornography or involving youth in pornography

Dating youth under the age of 18 or any youth over the age of 18 that is in any of our programs

Releasing children to anyone other than the authorized parent, guardian, caregiver or appropriate agency official such as DCS staff, Provider staff, School staff, etc.