



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
51 MISSION SUPPORT GROUP
OSAN AFB, KOREA

03 September 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAMS FLIGHT STAFF

FROM: 51 SVS/SVY

SUBJECT: Touch Policy

1. It is Air Force Policy to provide standard procedures addressing appropriate touch. At a minimum, employees will adhere to the following procedures:

APPROPRIATE TOUCH INVOLVES:

- a) Recognition of the importance of physical contact to a child's nurturance and guidance.
- b) Adults respecting the personal privacy and personal space of children.
- c) Adults responding to the safety and well-being of the child (i.e. holding hands to cross the street, assisting when a child has an accident, holding a child gently but firmly when the child may endanger himself/herself or others when upset)
- d) Modeling of appropriate touches such as hugs, naptime backrubs, reassuring touches on the shoulder, and have a child sit on the adult's lap.
- e) Children have the option to refuse touch except to ensure the safety of them and others.

INAPPROPRIATE TOUCH INVOLVES:

- a) Coercion or other forms of exploitation of the child's lack of knowledge.
 - b) Satisfaction of the adults needs at the expense of the child.
 - c) Violation of laws against sexual contact between an adult and a child.
 - d) An attempt to change child behavior with adult force often applied in anger.
 - e) Examples of inappropriate touching includes: forced goodbye hugs and kisses, corporal punishment, slapping, striking, pinching, biting, tickling for prolonged periods, fondling, or molestation.
2. Touch is absolutely necessary for the nurturance and development of children. Positive physical contact is a significant part of the Family Member Program's approach to childcare. Positive physical contact is essential to a child's emotional and social growth. Warm positive adult relationships help children develop a sense of trust and security in the world and directly affect children's self-esteem.

Daniel Strine, YC-02
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Coaches' Signature

Date

