

**CHILD YOUTH SCHOOLS AND SERVICES  
YOUTH SPORTS AND FITNESS  
TOUCH POLICY**

Children and youth who participate in any Child Youth Schools and Services program or activity will be empowered to express their feelings about receiving touches. They will be encouraged to trust their own feelings and ask a trusted adult (other than the one doing the touching) if they are not sure when something does not feel good.

Child Youth Schools and Services staff and volunteers will remember at all times, that touches must be appropriate. Appropriate touch differs according to age. For example; what is appropriate for a six year old may not be appropriate for a sixteen year old. Some children demand physical affection. They may hang on to you. Staff and volunteers can teach children about social boundaries and can be role models and teach acceptable boundaries.

The following guidelines will be followed at all times regarding touching:

- Touching will be response to the need of the child, not the need of the adult.
- Touching will be with the child's permission-resistance from the child will be respected.
- Touching will avoid the breasts, buttocks, and the groin.
- Touching will be open and not secretive.
- Touching and other physical contact will be governed by the age and developmental stage of the child.

The following CYSS "Touch Policy" will be adhered to at all times.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**GOOD TOUCH:** GENERALLY REFERS TO HUGS, ENCOURAGING PATS, HIGH FIVES AND OTHER POSITIVE OR COMFORTING GESTURES. GOOD TOUCHES ARE THOSE NURTURING TOUCHES THAT MAKES A CHILD FEEL SAFE AND SECURE.

**NORMAL TOUCHING:** IS ENCOURAGED. NORMAL TOUCHING IS NOT DONE IN SECRECY OR IN ISOLATION FROM OTHERS AND IS NOT FOR SEXUAL GRATIFICATION OF THE ADULT INVOLVED.

**BAD TOUCH:** REFERS TO HITTING, BITING, PUNCHING, AND ANY ACT/ACTS DESIGNED TO HURT, OR THOSE INVOLVING THE BREAST, BUTTOCKS, OR GROIN AND IS DESIGNED FOR SEXUAL GRATIFICATION OF THE ADULT.