

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Top tips: Love-led learning

Love-led learning in the early years involves creating an environment where children not only feel supported, valued and secure but truly loved. There is no place for fear in love. We need to be at ease with the concept of loving the children in our care and make it part of our professional identity.

Creating an environment that actively prioritises children's mental health will provide a strong foundation for healthy social and emotional development not only now but into the future. Here are some tips on how to achieve that:



- Include the word 'love' in your policies and guidance – if the language of love is not written in the policies, then it's more challenging for staff to use it confidently in their practice
- Human interaction and appropriate touch are natural e.g. hugging a child as you greet them in the morning, to soothe them after a fall or to help them sleep
- Use the word love in your everyday vocabulary to normalise its use
- Support each other with becoming comfortable with love-led practice by sharing experiences. Have open and honest conversations about how we express love, how it is seen and felt e.g. the words we use, the tone of our voices, hand holding, cuddles etc. Use supervisions as an opportunity to discuss love-led learning
- A love-led approach does not mean a loosening of your safeguarding policy. There is a distinct difference between inappropriate and appropriate touch
- Support new staff through robust induction procedures and probation periods to understand your love-led learning approach.
- Communicate with parents and families about your approach of love-led learning. Share policies with them and answer their questions with openness and honesty

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- Be prepared to talk openly with everyone to help them understand why loving relationships and strong emotional attachments are crucial to a child's development.

NDNA products to support you with these tips

- [Nursery leadership and management training](#)

And more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna