



## RELATIONSHIP RATIONALE

Relationships with a range of people have a special role to play in providing the right kind of environment for children where they will feel happy and safety especially in times of significant change. The word environment goes beyond the physical space that a child is in and extends to the atmosphere that is created within a school or a class or a bubble. In the early years embracing the context of the 'bubble' under this notion will be incredibly important, especially for those children who are having their first experiences of school or of an Early Years setting.



## KEY TIPS

- Encourage a bubble identity, engage in the imaginary context of the bubble with the children and imagine that they can decorate it, name it and develop some bubble rules such as being kind, washing our hands, keeping our distance etc
- Encourage children to find new ways to interact during play which helps them to form relationships and feel safe doing so. This could include special actions that they could learn such as air high fives or twinkle fingers
- Help teachers to develop socially distanced ways of providing comfort to small children such as hand hearts (making the shape of a heart with hands ) as a gesture of warmth to children.
- Noticing, observing and commenting on positive attributes for the children especially daily changes or their experiences. Encourage parents to email anecdotes from home for 'share and care' circles
- Have a bubble bear who is a character through which reminders can be made about hygiene and safety, deal with issues of change, address any worries. Use a system such as a voice recorder for young children so they can ask bubble bear a question or share a worry and bubble bear then answers these through the teacher at a set time during the day or session.
- Use songs to support new routines e.g. hand washing etc
- Pre-empt any times of change by developing a story for the children about being at home or being in setting to help to normalise past experience and prepare in case of further lockdown or protocol shifts
- Engage in a relationship project; paint a hand tree to visually show connectedness: linked self portraits: all about us photos and key words

## FURTHER WORK/ACTION IF REQUIRED

Note any increased psychosomatic presentation such as 'tummy aches', provide a cosy comfort corner for children to use if feeling worried, use identified positive likes/activities to provide comfort such as a favourite story; use bubble bear to identify thoughts feelings and worries