Professional Boundaries and Safe Touch in Early Childhood Education Fatality File



The image shows an educator seated in a quiet corner with a child on their lap while other children and staff are out of view.

What’s concerning is not the intention, but the lack of visibility and clarity. When touch happens in isolated spaces, it can create discomfort, confusion, or risk.

What should be avoided is providing physical comfort without clear boundaries or observation. The behaviour to model is offering comfort in visible areas, using verbal reassurance, or sitting beside a child instead of holding them.