Professional Boundaries and Safe Touch in Early Childhood Education Stats and Facts

FACTS

- Clear professional boundaries are a core component of child safeguarding.
- Children who experience predictable, respectful care are more likely to feel safe and confident.
- Inconsistent boundaries can create confusion about consent and personal space.
- Most boundary concerns arise from misunderstanding, not intent.
- Early discussion and clear policies reduce risk for children and educators.

STATS

- Safeguarding reviews consistently identify boundary clarity as a key protective factor.
- Organizations with clear safe-touch policies report fewer incidents and complaints.
- Training on consent and boundaries improves educator confidence and consistency.
- Visible, transparent care practices significantly reduce safeguarding concerns.
- In the United States, over 4 million child maltreatment referrals were made in 2022, involving approximately 7 million children, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Canadian child welfare agencies investigate over 200,000 child maltreatment cases each year, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada.