

INTIMATE CARE POLICY

Aim

We aim to safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of children. We aim to reassure parents that staff are knowledgeable about personal care and that all individual concerns are taken into account. We aim to provide guidance and reassurance to all staff whose role includes intimate care.

Definition of Intimate Care:

‘Care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene, which demands direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, the sexual parts of the body’

Intimate care tasks specifically identified as relevant include:

- dressing and undressing (underwear)
- helping someone use a potty or toilet
- changing nappies
- cleaning / wiping / washing intimate parts of the body.

Definition of Personal Care:

‘Although it may involve touching another person, it is less intimate and usually has the function of helping with personal presentation’

Personal care tasks specifically identified as relevant include:

- feeding
- administering oral medication
- hair care
- dressing and undressing (clothing)
- washing non-intimate body parts
- prompting to go to the toilet.

Children’s intimate care needs cannot be seen in isolation or separated from other aspects of their lives. Encouraging them to participate in their own intimate or personal care should therefore be part of a general approach towards facilitating participation in daily life.

All children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect. Disabled children can be especially vulnerable. Staff involved with their intimate care need to be sensitive to their individual needs.

Staff also need to be aware that some adults may use intimate care, as an opportunity to abuse children. It is important to bear in mind that some care tasks / treatments can be open to misinterpretation.

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Procedure to be followed for Intimate Care:

- The child must be given privacy in order to maintain their dignity.
- Staff members can choose to wear disposable gloves when changing dirty nappies or soiled clothing. The clothing must be placed in a bag and returned to the parents or carers at the end of the session in a discrete and sensitive manner.
- Only members of staff who have an enhanced DBS check are allowed to carry out any intimate care procedures such as changing nappies and helping with toileting
- Another member of staff must always be told when any intimate care is to be carried out by a staff member.
- Before commencing the changing process, staff must ensure they are prepared with a change of clothes, nappy, wipes, antibacterial spray/wipes and bag for disposal.
- Any concerns after changing a nappy or soiled underwear must be raised to the DSL or DDSL at the time and recorded.
- All nappy and underwear changes must be informed to the parent/carers at pick up.
- If the child is in the process of toilet training we will discuss this fully with the parents and we will ensure that the child is fully supported in this area by encouraging them and keeping full communication with the parents.
- The changing mat and any soiled area must be fully cleaned using antibacterial wipes or antibacterial spray and disposable cloths which are bagged and put in the dustbin.
- Hands must be washed with soap and hot water and then dried with paper towels.
- Any soiled areas within the Nursery itself must be fully cleaned by a member of staff wearing gloves and where necessary double bag the waste and always use a disposable mop head.
- The staff member must try and involve the child in the intimate care episode as much as possible and they must try and make the experience as pleasant for the child as possible.

If any member of staff has concerns about a colleague's intimate care practice they must report this following the guidelines in the Whistleblowing Policy forming part of the Safeguarding Policy.

Signed on behalf of the pre-school.....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Owen", written over a horizontal line.

Position within group.....CHAIRPERSON.....

Latest Review date.....18th February 2025