

## Policy statement

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body parts and personal hygiene, which demand direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of the genitals. Examples include care associated with continence.

No child is excluded from participating in our setting who may, for any reason, not yet be toilet trained and who may still be wearing nappies or equivalent. We work with parents towards toilet training, unless there are medical or other developmental reasons why this may not be appropriate at the time.

We provide nappy changing facilities and exercise good hygiene practices in order to accommodate children who are not yet toilet trained.

We see toilet training as a self-care skill that children can learn with the full support and non-judgemental concern of adults.

Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of safeguarding issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at the setting work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible.

Staff deliver a full personal safety curriculum, as part of personal, social, and health education to all children as appropriate to their development level and degree of understanding. This work is shared with parents who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages within the home.

We are committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner always. We recognise that there is need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

## Procedures

- Young children are changed within the bathroom on the changing unit whilst maintaining their dignity and privacy at all times. Staff will inform another staff member that they are changing a child.
- Pre school children have their own bag to hand with their nappies or pull ups and changing wipes.
- Our staff put on gloves before the area is prepared. All our staff are familiar with our hygiene procedures and carry these out when changing nappies. Our staff never turn their back on a child or leave them unattended whilst they are on the changing mat.
- We are gentle when changing; avoiding pulling faces or making negative comments about 'nappy content'.
- We do not make inappropriate comments about children's genitals when changing their nappies.
- In addition, we ensure that nappy changing is relaxed and a time to promote independence in young children.
- We encourage children to take an interest in using the toilet; they may just want to sit on it and talk to a friend who is also using the toilet.
- We encourage children to wash their hands, and have soap and paper towels to hand. They should be allowed time for some play as they explore the water and the soap.
- We use hypoallergenic, antibacterial hand wash liquid or soap for young children.
- Older children access the toilet when they have the need to and are encouraged to be independent.
- We dispose of nappies and pull ups hygienically, using a designated bin. Any soil (faeces) in nappies or pull ups is flushed down the toilet and the nappy or pull up is bagged and put in the bin. Cloth nappies, trainer pants and ordinary pants that have been wet or soiled are doubled bagged for parents to take home.
- We have a 'duty of care' towards children's personal needs. If children are left in wet or soiled nappies/pull ups in the setting this may constitute neglect.
- If a member of staff has concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc, he/she will immediately report concerns to the designated safeguarding officer in the club on that occasion. A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred on if necessary. (See safeguarding policy)

This policy was adopted in October 2021

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required.

Last updated: 10.11.22

Signed by the Preschool Committee: .....

Signed by the Club Manager: .....