

Intimate care and nappy changing

All children are entitled to consideration of dignity, privacy and individualised care when requiring assistance with their personal hygiene and care needs.

Members of staff involved in the delivery of intimate care must be mindful of the individual's particular needs and capabilities – all staff will be briefed on the specific needs of each child registered with the nursery before being required to work with the individual. They should also ensure that care is delivered in a safe and sensitive manner. Thought should also be given to restrict the numbers of intimate members of staff involved in meeting any one child's needs.

This policy has been designed to protect both staff and children whenever intimate care is performed.

Definition

Intimate care includes nappy changing, assisting toileting needs and any physical care or treatment that is an invasion of bodily privacy and which may be a potential source of exposure of or embarrassment to the individual child.

1. Whenever possible, children should be encouraged to perform their own intimate care and given the necessary support and encouragement to enable them to do this.
2. Parents are made aware of this policy on registration of their child.
3. All staff are aware of the hygiene procedures and ensure these are carried out during all intimate care.
4. PPE is readily available for all intimate care procedures.
5. Any special requirements or concerns relating to intimate care should be identified and documented.
6. The member of staff should respond as soon as possible to meet the individual's personal needs e.g. hygiene, toileting.
7. The care to be delivered should be explained to the child according to their age and level of understanding, and where possible, their permission sought.
8. The intimate care required should be delivered by an appropriately trained member of staff. This will usually be the key person. In situations where this is not possible, then another familiar staff member will deliver.
9. ALL people who are employed by the company in a child facing role can carry out intimate care procedures. This includes apprentices and assistants over the age of 17. These duties will only be able to commence after an induction period, appropriate training and when the room senior or management decides the person is competent to do so.
10. ANY people who are NOT employed by the company can NOT carry out any intimate care without direct supervision. This applies to students and volunteers.

11. The member of staff should select an appropriate environment to deliver the intimate care to ensure privacy and dignity at all times. All toilet and nappy changing areas have open access for other staff members ensuring that assistance can be summoned if required.
12. Intimate care should always be undertaken with tact, sensitivity and in an unhurried manner.
13. The member of staff should document any adverse or unusual reactions exhibited by the child during the delivery of intimate care. These concerns should be noted and shared, and the delivery of further intimate care monitored and reassessed, and further action taken if indicated.
14. During the delivery of intimate care, should the member of staff have cause for concern regarding possible child abuse, the nursery safeguarding procedures must be followed in all cases.
15. If children are engaged in an activity e.g. messy play, water or similar activities, staff must ensure that the child is appropriately dressed to respect their individual dignity and privacy.

Revised by Clare Chamberlain 09/04/2024

Policy adopted by Watcombe CIC on 18/07/2024