

Intimate Care Policy

Aims

- *To safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- *To provide guidance and reassurance to staff whose contracts include intimate care.
- *To assure parents and carers that staff are knowledgeable about personal care and that their individual concerns are taken into account.
- *Every child has the right to be accepted for who they are, without regard to age, gender, ability, race, culture or beliefs.

The aim of this policy is to illustrate how the pre-school is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect where intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

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 make necessary adjustments to our bathroom provision and hygiene practice in order to accommodate children who are not yet toilet trained. We see toilet training as a self-care skill that children have the opportunity to learn with the full support and non-judgemental concern of adults.

Definition

Intimate care is defined as any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up after a child who has soiled him/herself) to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve procedures relating to personal hygiene and the cleaning of equipment associated with the process as part of staff members' duty of care.

Intimate care can also be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene, which demand direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of the sexual part of the body.

Best Practice

Georgie Porgy's pre-school adhere to the following practice:

- *All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is paramount.
- * Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including child protection training and Health & Safety training in moving and handling) and are fully aware of best practice.
- * There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic etc.) to discuss the child's needs and preferences. The child is made aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reason for it.
- * Individual intimate care plans are drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child.

*Intimate care arrangements are discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the child's care plan if necessary

When required

*work with parents and children to establish an individual intimate care plan. This involves a risk assessment and ensures that specialist training for staff is sought where necessary.

*Staff encourages each child to be as independent as possible according to their age, capacity to understand and their ability. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves.

*Each child's right to privacy is respected. Care and consideration is given to each child's individual situation to determine how many carers need to be present when a child is toileted.

*Every member of staff who is placed on the toilet duty rota holds a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check. However, any child may choose a preferred member of staff to change them, no staff member will continually and mindfully change the same child continuously.

*The door to the changing area is kept open at all times.

Working with parents

Our Pre-school works closely with parents/carers and the children to establish a preferred procedure for supporting individual children with their personal and intimate care.

Where possible the child's key person will be responsible for undertaking the intimate care of an individual child. When this is not possible another member of staff who is known to the child will take on that responsibility.

Children may identify a preference for particular staff member(s) and we will endeavour to comply with their request where possible.

Children are always asked by the member of staff who is caring for them, for permission to assist them, and children who would like to perform their own care are encouraged to do so with adult support when appropriate.

Children will be cared for with dignity and with respect for their privacy.

We work with parents to carry out toilet training, unless there are medical or other developmental reasons why this may not be appropriate at the time.

All nappy changes/toilet changes/pull ups are recorded on a slip and placed in the child's bag

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Georgie Porgy's Pre-school