

Intimate Care Procedure

Intimate Care is defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene.

All staff at our setting have an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Check. Only employed staff are allowed in the nappy changing and toileting area. If on occasion a parent wishes to change their child in the nappy and toileting area, they need to make staff members aware so other children can be prevented from accessing the area at the same time. All staff receive regular Child Protection and Safeguarding updates, at least annually. This training includes the subject of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the mandatory reporting process.

All children need contact with familiar consistent carers to ensure they can grow confidently and feel self-assured. To support this we have a strong keyperson system in place.

Intimate care routines are essential throughout the day to ensure children's needs are met. This may include supporting children with toileting, changing clothes where required, first aid treatment and specialist medical support.

In order to maintain the child's privacy, the majority of these actions will take place on a one-to-one basis and wherever possible will be supported by the child's keyworker, with the exception of the first aid treatment that will be conducted by a qualified first aider. We endeavour to support the child with a familiar person at all times, especially regarding intimate care.

All staff wear protective gloves and aprons for administering first aid or cleaning a child who has soiled themselves.

Every child is to be treated with dignity and respect. To aid with children's privacy the children have separate toilets that they can use with doors.

The child will be involved as much as possible in his or her intimate care, allowing the child to be as independent as possible. This can be for tasks such as removing clothing or washing private parts of their body.

We will always talk to the child about what we are doing and give choices where possible.

We will be responsive to the child's reactions

We will make sure the practice of intimate care is as consistent as possible

Parents/Carers will be consulted about the intimate care that is given to their child.

Children will be asked to wash their hands after messy play, after using the toilet, before and after eating.

We seek to find out religious and cultural views of families around intimate care.

If there is cause for concern noted during the intimate care of a child, the following will be reported to the setting's designated safeguarding lead or deputy:

- If a child is accidentally hurt
- The child misunderstands or misinterprets something
- The child has a very strong emotional reaction without apparent cause (e.g. sudden shouting or crying)
- The child seems sore unusually tender in the genital area
- There is any visible injury to the genital area (we will not examine a child, this/these injuries would be obvious during intimate care procedures)
- The child makes a comment that concerns you.

