



The Play Den

24. Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements

INTIMATE CARE POLICY

We are committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children or young people will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children/young people with respect and dignity when intimate care is given.

What is intimate care?

Intimate care encompasses areas of personal care, such as nappy changing and assisting children to use a potty or toilet. In the event a child has a toilet accident, it is necessary to change them too. **(Safeguarding and Welfare 3)**

Our approach to best practice

Support for children/young people with intimate care needs will be carefully planned and should be a positive experience for all involved.

The setting will ensure that:

- Wherever possible, your child's key person will conduct intimate care duties
- Children will never be left when being (nappy) changed
- A child will not leave the change/toilet area until the adult who has conducted the intimate care also leaves
- Older children are encouraged to close the cubicle door for privacy

- A clear verbal hand-over must occur to notify other staff members that a child has re-entered the play areas.
- Staff who provide intimate care are trained to meet the needs of individual children.
- All staff adhere to the setting's safeguarding and child protection policy.
- Suitable equipment and facilities are made available.
- Gloves will be worn by staff to minimize the risk of cross infection
- Staff carrying out intimate care are appropriately supported.
- Where possible one to one care will be provided unless there is an identified need for having more adults.
- Staff will deal with changes sensitively and compassionately.
- The needs and wishes of the child/young person are taken into consideration.
- Mobile phones, cameras or tablets are not used by children or staff in any area where intimate care is carried out.

Intimate care - safeguarding children

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical or behavioral changes in a child/young person's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness, they will immediately pass their concerns to the Designated Person for child protection in their setting (Marie Giddings or Kate Adams). **(Safeguarding and Welfare 3)**

Intimate care should be a positive experience for both staff and the child or young person.

Adults need to be vigilant about their own behavior, ensure they follow agreed guidelines and be mindful of the needs of the children and young people with whom they work.

In the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff the procedures for Allegations of Abuse (as per the guidance and flow chart) will be followed. (See Child Protection Policy)

Visits and outings

The setting has robust procedures and plans in place for the day to day intimate care needs of a child or young person, but further consideration will need to be taken in good time before a trip or for an activity.

This policy was produced on 5/3/14 and last updated on 11/4/19