

Intimate Care Policy

Purpose

At Little Stars Preschool we believe that all children need contact with familiar, consistent carers to ensure they can grow and develop socially and emotionally. At times children need to be cuddled, encouraged, held and offered physical reassurance.

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

This policy sets out the actions we will take to ensure the safety and welfare of children during intimate care routines and safeguard them against any potential harm as well as ensuring the staff member involved is fully supported and able to perform their duties safely and confidently.

Actions

We aim to support all parties through the following actions:

- In order to maintain the child's privacy, we will carry out the majority of intimate care routines on a one-to-one basis, wherever possible, by the child's key person with the exception of first aid treatment which must be carried out by a qualified first aider.
- We promote consistent and caring relationships through the key person system in the Preschool and ensure all parents understand how this works
- We ensure all staff undertaking intimate care routines have suitable enhanced DBS checks
- We train all staff in the appropriate methods for intimate care routines and arranging specialist training where required, i.e. first aid training, specialist medical support
- All new staff, students or helpers are inducted to ensure they are fully aware of all Preschool procedures relating to intimate care routines
- Procedures will be followed up through supervision meetings and appraisals to identify any areas for development or further training
- We work closely with parents on all aspects of the child's care and education as laid out in the Parent and Carers as Partners Policy. This is essential for intimate care routines which require specialist training or support. If a child requires specific support the Preschool will arrange a meeting with the parent to discover all the relevant information relating to this to enable the staff to care for the child fully and meet their individual needs
- All staff will have an up-to-date understanding of safeguarding/child protection and how to protect children from harm. This will include identifying signs and symptoms of abuse and how to raise these concerns as set out in the safeguarding/child protection policy
- We operate a whistleblowing policy to help staff raise any concerns about their peers or managers; and helping staff develop confidence in raising worries as they arise in order to safeguard the children in the Preschool

- We conduct working practice observations on all aspects of Preschool operations to ensure that procedures are working in practice and all children are supported fully by the staff. This includes intimate care routines
- We conduct regular risk assessments on all aspects of the Preschool operation including intimate care and reviewing the safeguards in place. The Preschool has assessed all the risks relating to intimate care routines and has placed appropriate safeguards in place to ensure the safety of all involved.

If any parent or member of staff has concerns or questions about intimate care procedures or individual routines, please see the manager at the earliest opportunity

Review / Version Control				
Review period - 3 years				
Version	Created	Reviewed	Initials	Changes
Intimate Care Policy (v1.0)	05/2020			
		10/2021	DH AP	No changes
Intimate Care Policy - Oct24 - v1.1	10/2024		DH AP	Changed template and version control. No changes to wording
		10/25	DH AP	