



Intimate Care Policy

Reviewed: 06/2024

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Introduction

Staff who work with young children will realise that the issue of intimate care is a difficult one and will require staff to be respectful of children's needs.

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene which demand direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the genitals. Examples include care associated with washing, bathing and at nappy changing times, and dressing children.

Children's dignity will be preserved and an appropriate level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour is open to scrutiny, and staff at Caverstede Nursery School work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible.

Staff permitted to carry out intimate care are classroom staff only, and those other staff that have been authorised to do so, whose names are detailed on the list held at each changing bed area, and only when necessary.

Authorisation of non-classroom staff (e.g. lunch club and supply staff) is by the Senior Teacher or Head Teacher

Student and volunteers must have permission (given by Senior Teacher) to carry out intimate care, **only** when required as part of their course and under direct supervision of a member of classroom staff.

Caverstede Nursery 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. Caverstede Nursery School recognises that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given.

Our approach to best practice

All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Staff who provide intimate care are fully aware of best practice. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements as required. This may involve advice from physiotherapist/occupational therapist or other appropriate professional.

There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, signs, symbols, etc.) to discuss the child's needs and preferences. The child is made aware of each procedure that is carried out.

As a basic principle, children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for themselves as they can. Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child. The intimate care plan is completed by the Key Person and is shared with the class team, and the intimate care plan is reviewed when the need arises.

Each child's right to an appropriate level of privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many carers might need to be present when a child needs help with intimate care. Where possible, one child will be cared for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having two adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented on their intimate care plan.

Wherever possible the same child will be cared for by the same adults on a regular basis: there is a number of carers known to the child who will take turns in providing care. This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, while at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers.

Parents/carers may be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be carefully considered alongside any possible constraints; e.g. staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

The protection of children

Staff follow Safeguarding procedures and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE).

Where appropriate, children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding (reference NSPCC 'Talk PANTS').