



Intimate Care Policy

Brereton Playgroup and 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 when intimate care is given.

No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.

Definition

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up after a child has soiled him/herself) to intimate personal areas.

In most cases such care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene and the cleaning of equipment associated with the process as part of a staff member's duty of care.

In the cases of specific procedure only staff suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure.

Our Approach to Best Practice

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires intimate care is treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Staff who provide intimate care have accessed relevant training (including health and safety, manual handling and safeguarding) and are fully aware of best practice. Suitable equipment and facilities will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/ occupational therapist.

The child 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 him/herself as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves.

Individual intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child.

Each child's right to 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 is toileted.

Where possible one child will be catered for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented.. Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the child's care plan. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever practically possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

The Protection of Children

Staff are familiar with the Dfes booklet *What to do if you think a child is being abused* and will follow the guidance it contains.

Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and Multi-Agency Child Protection procedures will be adhered to.

All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of ability development and understanding.

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the SOCCO (designated person for safeguarding).

These concerns will be shared with other agencies as appropriate such as Children's Assessment Team (see Safeguarding Policy).

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution.

Staffing schedules will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved so that the child's needs remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed (see Safeguarding Policy for details)

Dealing with blood and body fluids

