

# Intimate Care Policy

## Grandpont Nursery School & Childcare



Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure (such as cleaning up a pupil after they have soiled themselves) to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve cleaning for hygiene purposes as part of a staff member's duty of care. The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful of the child's needs. The child's dignity should always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control. There shall be a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour must be open to scrutiny and staff must work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible.

Grandpont Nursery School and Childcare 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. Staff 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 or pain.

### 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 are nominated to do so and are fully aware of best practice and procedures.

Staff are made aware of procedures to follow if a complaint is made against a member of staff. All staff are encouraged to be extra vigilant for any signs or symptoms of improper practice.

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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. 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 accordingly. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

All Nursery and Childcare parents will be given a copy of the Intimate Care Policy and it will be signposted on our website.

### **Children wearing nappies or toileting accidents**

At Grandpont Nursery School and Childcare we understand that children are at different developmental stages and unless there are any medical or developmental reasons why this would not be appropriate, we work in partnership with parents to support them towards independent toilet training. No child is excluded from participating in our setting who may, for any reason, not yet be toilet trained and who may still be wearing nappies or pull-ups. We make appropriate adjustments to our bathroom provision and hygiene practice in order to accommodate children who are not yet toilet trained. We see toilet training as a self-care skill that children have the opportunity to learn with the full support and non-judgemental concern of adults.

### **Procedures for changing children**

- Children should wear 'pull-ups' or other types of trainer pants as soon as they are comfortable with this and their parents agree.
- There should be a designated safe area for the children to lie down if they need their bottom cleaned. This area should be private but not closed off.
- Staff will discreetly inform other key workers that they are taking a child to be changed.
- Complete nappy changing record.
- Each child should have a clearly named bag with nappies/trainer pants labelled and provided by their parents and brought into nursery each day. This bag should also include a spare change of clothes.
- Prepare the changing mat by cleaning with antibacterial spray and paper roll placed on the mat freshly for every child. Gloves and disposable aprons are put on before changing starts.
- Staff should remove the nappy and clean the area, always from front to back using wipes and cream provided by the parents/carers. The member of staff must ensure the child is clean and comfortable by putting on a clean nappy and clean set of clothes if required.
- Dirty nappies and trainer pants are all disposed of in a nappy sack and then placed into the designated nappy bin.
- Pants and clothes that have been soiled are bagged for the parents to take home.

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- Staff should wash their hands with warm soap and water and/or sanitizer after changing a child.
- All staff are to be familiar with hygiene procedures and carry these out when changing children.
- Children are encouraged to take an interest in using the toilet.
- Children should be encouraged to wash their hands after being changed.
- If a child has any disability or medical need that may affect their personal care routine, a Health Care Plan will be drawn up in agreement with the parents/carers.
- No students or volunteers would change a child.

### **Partnership with parents**

At the nursery home visit we will discuss toileting with parents/carers in terms of:

- How parents manage the situation at home.
- Preferred method of toilet training.
- How we are going to develop a consistent approach to toilet training at home and in the nursery.
- Offer of support if appropriate. Parents must understand that changing nappies involves intimate handling.

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