

Intimate Care

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure to intimate personal areas (such as changing a nappies, cleaning a child who has soiled themselves, changing wet clothes or applying cream)

The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful of the child's needs, dignity and privacy. It is not normal practice for there to be two members of staff involved in intimate care of one child as this will inhibit the child's privacy.

There shall be a high awareness of child protection issues and staff behaviour must be open to scrutiny. Staff must work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible.

Where children need creaming for nappy rash, eczema or having sun cream applied all relevant documentation must be completed prior to application.

We acknowledge that it is essential that every child is treated as an individual and that care is given as gently and as sensitively as possible.

Older children will be encouraged to use self-help skills with regard to toileting and changing of wet clothes. A child's key person should be aware of their key children's abilities and liaise with the change person who will be available to offer help if necessary.

We also believe that every child should be encouraged to have a positive image of their own body. We aim to provide guidance and reassurance to staff and to protect the rights and wellbeing of children.

We will endeavour to make all of our staff aware of our confidentiality policy and ensure the privacy and situation when carrying out intimate care. No child will be changed in the bathroom with the door closed.

Staff will have regard to strict hygiene procedures by wearing disposable gloves and aprons and use appropriate cleaning equipment for each situation caused by intimate care, soiled nappies must be placed in a nappy sack before disposing of in the nappy bin, and all soiled clothes should be changed and placed in a named bag.