

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

Providers must ensure there are suitable facilities and procedures for intimate care

6.8 Intimate care

Policy statement

Southam Nurture Nursery are responsible for the care of all children, whatever their needs or difficulties

We have defined Intimate Care as direct care of the child in terms of any personal care activity.

Intimate care is a high risk activity in terms of abuse and it is particularly important that there are guidelines on Intimate Care, both to protect those being cared for and the staff who care for the children's needs. We take the view that everyone is safer if expectations are clear and approaches are as consistent as possible.

Staff employed within the nursery have recognised the need to design guidelines that encompass all aspects of procedures. They apply to every member of staff involved in the intimate care of the children and they aim to support good practice

Therefore, our guidelines have the following goals:

- To outline good practice during intimate care tasks so we can distinguish between good and poor care practice
- To protect the children and the staff who are asked to carry out intimate care tasks
- To outline a system that works effectively for the child, ensuring a consistent approach is undertaken and that approaches to intimate care are not markedly different between individuals

Procedures

1. Children and their parents should have confidence in the staff

All staff involved in Intimate Care routines will have been DBS checked and will receive appropriate training to carry out this aspect of their work. Parents can view a copy of the nursery Intimate Care policy and will be offered an opportunity to discuss their child's needs with the child's key person

2. Safeguarding for Children and Adults

Whilst intimate care takes place the staff member and child will be in view of another staff member.

3. Carers should be aware of the abilities of the child

The child should be enabled and encouraged, as far as is reasonably possible, to contribute to his/her own intimate care

4. **Ensure privacy, appropriate to the child's age and gender**
The nursery takes the view that the issue of privacy is important. All children will be changed in a discreet area with all of the necessary equipment to hand i.e. changing mat, protective gloves, wipes, clean nappies, change of clothes etc.
5. **Children have the right to be respected**
Respect of the child's body and integrity should be included in all care procedures. Ideally, someone who has a positive long-term relationship with the child should carry out intimate care tasks. New members of staff should get to know the children before getting involved in Intimate Care tasks.
6. **A strong focus should be evident on choice and decision making skills**
Wherever appropriate, decision making should be an integral part of the process – e.g. Do you want to go to the toilet or not? Should we wash your hands or face first? Can I help fasten your trousers?
7. **Children will be prepared and involved in what is going to happen**
Staff will raise the child's awareness of the process. Objects of reference, symbols, signs, gesture and verbal explanation will be given as appropriate
8. **Intimate Care tasks are not an interruption to the timetable**
These practices should be valued as part of each child's essential curriculum. They are an opportunity to develop independent and age-appropriate skills, increase dignity and to raise self-esteem.
9. **Never do any task unless you are confident in your ability to do it**
Never guess; ask a colleague to help.
10. **If you are concerned – report it**
If a child presents with anything to cause concern, follow the nurseries Child Protection Procedures.
11. **Health and Safety Issues**
Barrier materials will always be used e.g. disposable gloves. Appropriate Lifting and Handling Procedures will be followed when necessary.

RESOURCES

The nursery will seek parental views on practices at home. Preferred materials will be used and parents will be encouraged to resource their child's needs whenever possible.

This policy was adopted by	Parenting Project	<i>(name of provider)</i>
On	19 th Jan 2016	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	19 th Jan 2017	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider	<hr/>	
Name of signatory	Elaine Johnston	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	CEO - Director	