

Intimate Care Nappy Changing

In intimate care situations, the child's safety, dignity and privacy are of paramount importance. Children requiring intimate care will be treated respectfully at all times.

'Intimate care' covers any task that involves the washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas and is associated with bodily functions and personal hygiene, including, toileting, washing, dressing, and menstrual care.

Staff at Little Munchkins who provide intimate care will do so in a professional manner. Staff are aware of safeguarding issues and will have relevant training (e.g.: health and safety, child protection, manual handling) before providing intimate care. No child should suffer distress or pain as a result of receiving intimate care.

Staff will work in partnership with parents or carers to provide care appropriate to the needs of the individual child and together will produce a care plan. The care plan will set out:

- What care is required
- Number of staff needed to carry out the task (if more than one person is required, reasons will be documented)
- Additional equipment required
- Child's preferred means of communication (eg verbal, visual)
- Child's level of ability – what tasks they are able to carry out by themselves

Best practice

When intimate care is given, the member of staff will explain fully each task that is carried out, and the reasons for it. Staff will encourage children to do as much for themselves as they can.

If a child requires intimate care on a regular basis, it is a good idea for two members of staff to share the care between them. In this way the child should not become overly dependent on a single member of staff, and is less likely to become distressed if their usual carer is occasionally unavailable. However, parents' views on the number of staff providing personal care to their child must also be taken into consideration - some children may simply be unable to cope with more than one carer.

We have policies in place that promote safe recruitment, as well as having sound staff supervision, safeguarding and intimate care procedures; together these ensure that should a child need consistent care from one member of staff, the child's safety and well-being will not be compromised.

Protecting children

Staff are familiar with the Local Safeguarding Children Board booklet *Recognising The Signs Of Child Abuse* and with the DfE booklet *What To Do If You Think A Child Is Being Abused*, and will follow the guidance in they contain.

If a member of staff is concerned about any physical changes to a child, such as marks, bruises, soreness etc, they will inform the manager or designated CPO (child protection officer) immediately. The **Safeguarding Children** policy will then be implemented.

Should a child become unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the manager will look into the situation and record any findings. These will be discussed with the child's parents or carers in order to resolve the problem. If necessary the manager will seek advice from outside agencies.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the procedure set out in the **Safeguarding Children** policy will be followed.

Dealing with blood and body fluids

Blood, vomit, urine and faeces will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of safely by double bagging the waste and removing it from the premises. When they are dealing with body fluids, staff will wear personal protective clothing (disposable plastic gloves and aprons) and will wash themselves thoroughly afterwards. Soiled children's clothing will be bagged to go home – staff will not rinse it. Children will be kept away from the affected area until the incident has been dealt with fully.

Staff at Little Munchkins will maintain high standards of personal hygiene, and will take all practicable steps to prevent and control the spread of infection.

Nappy Changing Policy

Any necessary adjustments are made to the bathroom area and hygiene practice for children who are not yet toilet trained.

Work is carried out alongside parents with regards to toilet training a child, unless there are any medical or other developmental reasons why this may not be appropriate.

Procedures:

- There will be a timetable of nappy changing times for young children within the nursery who are in nappies or pull-ups.
- Changing areas are warm and safe, with an appropriate and comfortable surface if a child needs to have their bottom cleaned.
- Each child has their own basket to hand with nappies/pull-ups and changing wipes.
- Gloves and aprons are always put on by staff and areas are prepared before changing begins. Fresh blue roll is put down over the changing mat for every child.
- All staff are familiar with changing procedures and implement them when changing nappies.
- Nappy changing is relaxed and allows time to promote independence for each child.
- Young children are encouraged to use the toilet/potty. They may want to sit and talk to a friend who is also using the toilet/potty.
- Children are encouraged to wash their hands; soap and towels are always accessible.
They are allowed to show interest in water and soap when washing hands, and should be allowed some time to do so.
- Older children have access to the toilet when they need to, and are encouraged to be independent.
- Nappies and pull-ups are disposed of hygienically. Any faecal matter is to be flushed down the toilet, and the nappy/pull-up is bagged and disposed of sanitarily.
- Wipes and nappies/pull-ups are never flushed down the toilet.
- Any soiled garments are to be rinsed and bagged for the parent to take home.

This policy was adopted by: Little Munchkins	Date:
To be reviewed:	Signed:

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2012): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Equal opportunities [3.66] and Child protection [3.6]*