



## Safeguarding children

### 1.17.1 Intimate care: policy and procedures

#### **Policy statement**

The policy provides guidelines for the management of intimate care for children at School House Nurseries and is to be viewed as an expectation upon staff. The policy is designed to protect both children and staff alike.

#### **Definition**

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, bodily products and personal hygiene, which demand direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, the sexual parts of the body.

#### **Good practice guidelines**

- Every child is treated with dignity and respect.
- The child should be involved as much as possible in his or her own intimate care. Try and avoid doing things for a child, allow the child to be as independent as possible. This is as important for tasks such as removing underwear as it is for washing the private parts of a child's body. Support children in doing all that they can for themselves. If a child is fully dependent on you, talk with him / her about what you are doing and give choices where possible.
- Be responsive to a child's reactions. It is appropriate to 'check' your practices by asking the child (particularly a child you have not previously cared for) "Is it ok to do it this way?".
- If a child expresses dislike of a certain person carrying out his / her intimate care, try and find out why. Conversely, if a child appears distressed or dislikes you, ensure the Manager is aware of this.
- Encourage the child to have a positive image of his / her own body. Confident, assertive children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to abuse. As well as the basics like privacy, the approach you take to a child's intimate care can convey lots of messages about what his / her body is worth.
- Your attitude to a child's intimate care is important. As far as appropriate, and keeping in mind the child's age, routine care of a child should be enjoyable, relaxed and fun.
- Make sure the practice of intimate care is as consistent as possible. The Manager has a responsibility for ensuring the staff have a consistent approach.
- This does not mean that everyone has to do things in an identical fashion, but it is important that approaches to intimate care are not markedly different between individuals.



## Procedures

- Explain to the child that you need to help them to get cleaned up.
- Plastic gloves and a blue disposable apron will be worn and soiled clothing will be double wrapped and either disposed of or handed back to parent / carer.
- All efforts will be made to provide a private space for the child to be changed in. This area may change depending on session time and the needs of the child. If changing takes place on the floor a changing mat will be used.
- Staff and child's hands will be washed using soap and water and all surfaces and changing mat will be disinfected to avoid cross contamination.
- Only staff employed by School House Nurseries, who we have two references for, and who have been checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service will be allowed to provide intimate care. (These rules apply to all staff, including Bank Staff). Students, parents and volunteers are NOT permitted to provide intimate care.
- N.B. If young children are left in wet or soiled nappies/ 'pull ups' in the setting this may constitute neglect and will be a disciplinary matter.

## Staff concerns

- Report any incident as soon as possible to the lead in the classroom on the day. They will make a brief written note of it. This is for two reasons: firstly, because there may be cause for concern, and secondly, because the child or another adult might possibly misconstrue something you have done.
- These concerns will be relayed to the parent.
- If you are concerned that, during the intimate care of a child
  - a. You accidentally hurt the child
  - b. The child seems sore or unusually tender in the genital area
  - c. The child misunderstands or misinterprets something
  - d. The child has a very strong emotional reaction without apparent cause (such as sudden crying or shouting)

you must report the incident immediately to our Safeguarding Lead, or in her absence, the Deputy Safeguarding Lead, in line with School House Nurseries' Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy.

## Arrangements for complaint

These are defined by our Complaints Policy.

## This policy was updated and reviewed in:

Reviewed date	Name	Signature
September 2015	Stuart Watt	
May 2016	Stuart Watt	
August 2016	Stuart Watt	
September 2016	Stuart Watt	
April 2017	Stuart Watt	

April 2018	Lindy Baldwin	
August 2018	Lindy Baldwin	
April 2019	Lindy Baldwin	
May 2019	Stuart Watt	
January 2020	Stuart Watt	
January 2021	Stuart Watt	
January 2022	Stuart Watt	
March 2023	Stuart Watt	