

Intimate Care Policy

The Acorn Nursery School is responsible for the care of all children, whatever their needs or difficulties, including children with learning and physical difficulties who have an increased dependency and may require practical support with their intimate care needs at nursery.

We have defined Intimate Care as direct care of the child in terms of any personal care activity a child would normally be able to do for him/herself. These needs are no different to the needs of a child who is not disabled but there are differences in the nature, method and principles of fulfilling those needs.

Intimate care can be 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.

These procedures apply to every member of staff involved in the intimate care of the children and they aim to support good practice.

Guidelines

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 have access to the nursery's Intimate Care policy online and will be offered an opportunity to discuss their child's needs with an appropriate member of staff.

2. Safeguarding for children and adults

Wherever possible two people are needed for any procedure involving intimate care, one to do the care and one to ensure the safeguarding of both child and adult.

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 school 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 in the classroom context 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. Staff will never do any intimate care task unless they are confident in their ability to do it

9. If staff are concerned

Intimate Care tasks should never be approached light heartedly. If a child has soreness or something to cause you concern, follow the nursery's Safeguarding Policy and inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.