

Winsome Tots

Nursery

Intimate Care Policy

Intimate care policy

Philosophy

Children learn best when they are safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the people caring for them. Love is a deeply valued component of effective early education according to the parents who assign their children into the care of professional pedagogues.

Our Intimate Care and Toileting Guidelines regarding children have been developed to safeguard children and staff. And is based on the guidelines of 'Early Childhood Care and Education Evaluation Framework Standards to support the continuous improvement of the quality of care, teaching and learning in early childhood centers 0- 8' and Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Introduction

Understanding that Student's dignity should be preserved, we ensure, Staff that provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. Considering, fear and uncertainty among stakeholders concerning what "kind" of touch and how much love is appropriate to feel for children staff behavior is open to scrutiny and staff work in partnership with parents/guardian to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible.

Intimate care can include

- Feeding
- Washing
- Diapering
- Dressing/undressing
- Toileting

Principles of Intimate Care

The following are the fundamental principles upon which the Policy and Guidelines are based:

- Every child has the right to be safe.
- Every child has the right to personal privacy.
- Every child has the right to be valued as an individual.
- Every child has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Every child has the right to be involved and consulted in their own intimate care to the best of their abilities.
- Every child has the right to express their views on their own intimate care and to have such views taken into account.
- Every child has the right to have levels of intimate care that are as consistent as possible.

Staff recruitment

- Recruitment and selection of candidates for posts involving intimate care will be made fully aware of what will be required and detailed in their job description before accepting the post.
- All staff will receive Safeguarding/Child Protection training as part of whole School Training.

(refer our health safety and well-being policy)

Roles and responsibilities of staff

- All our staff are well trained in the specific types of intimate care that they carry out and fully understand the Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines within the context of their work.
- Intimate care arrangements agreed by the Manager, parents / carers, child (if appropriate) will be recorded in the child's personal file and consent forms signed by the parents / carers.
- Staff should not undertake any aspect of intimate care that has not been agreed between the manager, parents / carers and child (if appropriate).
- If a staff member is on sick leave. Additional trained staff will take care of the specific intimate care tasks.
- If a staff member has concerns about a colleague's intimate care practice, they must report this to their designated manager / teacher.

- Knowing very well, children of SEND can be especially vulnerable. We ensure that the Staff involved with their intimate care is sensitive enough to their individual needs.

- We sensitize our Staff on the need to be aware that some adults may use intimate care, as an opportunity to abuse children. It is important to bear in mind that some care tasks / treatments can be open to misinterpretation. Staff should do the intimate care strictly adhering to the guidelines.

- The practice of providing one-one intimate care for child is supported, unless the activity requires two persons for the greater comfort / safety of the child or the child prefers two persons.

- The focus in EYFS is on meeting individual needs so, in an ideal routine, feeding, nappy changing and sleep will not be done in large groups

- If the staff has any concerns, must report them. If any unusual markings, discolorations or swelling including the genital area, is observed it has be reported immediately to the designated manager / teacher.
- If during the intimate care of a child, the child is hurt, or the child appears to be sexually aroused by the staff's actions, or misunderstands or misinterprets something, the staff will reassure the child, ensure their safety and report the incident immediately to the designated manager / teacher

- If there is any unusual emotional or behavioral response by the child, it will be reported and recorded. A written record of concerns will be made and kept in the child's nursing / medical notes / personal file.

Individual intimate care plan

Parents should be encouraged and empowered to work with staff to ensure their child's needs are identified, understood and met. This will include involvement with Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Health Care Plans and any other plans which identify the need for intimate care

In developing the plan, the following will be considered:

- The importance of working towards independence
- A system for the child to leave class without disruption to the lesson

- Awareness of a child's discomfort.
- A procedure will also be included to explain how concerns arising from the intimate care process will be dealt with.

Nappy Change policy

- The Key person should be encouraged to change their key children where possible. This supports continuity for the child and enables their preferences in relation to changing to be followed.
- Staff should meet with parents/carers to discuss the child's needs and their approach to intimate care. Wherever possible, to avoid distress or confusion to the child, practice should be the same at home and in the setting or school.
- Staff should be mindful of the need to preserve the dignity of the child. For example, a 'do not enter' visual can be placed on the door to ensure that privacy and dignity are maintained during the time taken to change the child.
- Each child should have his/her own named bag/container for nappies/spare clothes.
- When changing nappy for children staff should wash their hands with hot water and an appropriate soap/hand cleaner both before and after nappy changing. Gloves (and aprons where necessary) should be worn while carrying out intimate care. The changing table should be cleaned after each use and the nappy should be disposed of hygienically in an appropriate container. Any spillages must be cleaned up immediately.
- Where needed staff should record times/frequencies of nappy changing and note any concerns (for example unusual bowel movement), which should be reported to parents/carers when the child is collected.
- An adequate supply of nappies should be kept on the premises at all times. Where parents/carers provide the nappies, staff should notify them well in advance when the stock is depleting.

An effective nappy change supports

- Establishing routine for babies and toddlers.
- Communication and language and physical development as well as personal social and emotional development, when carried out by the key person.
- Good one to one interaction.
- Babies and toddlers to understand the concept of clean and to practice simple dressing skills.
- Contextual development of vocabulary. Babies will learn to recognize the word nappy as they will associate it with the process of nappy

Toilet Training

Using a potty is a new skill for child to learn. It's best to take it slowly and go at child's pace. Being patient with them will help them get it right. Children are able to control their bladder and bowels when they're physically ready and when they want to be dry and clean. Every child is different, so it's best not to compare with other children.

WTN recommends toilet training for children aged around 2 and half years. Most children are normally showing signs around this period give or take a few months. We assist potty training with the parent's wishes or through the Nursery intervention.

- Potty training can be a stressful time as some parents want to potty train when their child turns

2 (or even earlier in some cases) and not yet ready.

- Far too often it becomes difficult for the child involved to keep up with the high expectations of their parents and may result in the child wetting at a later stage as the child's confidence has been knocked.

WTN takes all this on board and have their own methods.

- When seeking advice on potty training, book an appointment to see the child's teacher to discuss our methods.
- We recommend parents to try potty training when there are no great disruptions or changes to child's or family's routine. It's important to stay consistent, so child do not get confused.
- Parents would need to have been training their child for at least two days at home (during weekends) fairly successfully before the Nursery can take it up.
- The centre manager usually requests the parents to be as relaxed as possible, as well as finding out the method of potty training used at home.
- Every child is an individual, therefore they all reach the successful period at various times. Some take one month and others over a month. However, the large majority of children are dry long before they are 3 years old and gain confidence in themselves.
- It is the responsibility of the parent that their child has surplus clothing in case of toileting accidents at the Nursery.
- We also ask that parents be fully aware that some items of clothing are not practical during the toilet training process – dungarees, belts, tight trousers/jeans, all in one vests etc.

We Promote positive self-esteem and body image. Confident, self-assured children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to sexual abuse. The approach you take to intimate care can convey lots of messages to a child about their body worth. Your attitude to a child's intimate care is important. Keeping in mind the child's age, routine care can be relaxed, enjoyable and fun.

