

Community Pre-schools Intimate Care Policy and Procedure

This policy outlines the approach to providing intimate care for children. We are committed to promoting the dignity, privacy, and safety of every child, while supporting their individual needs and fostering independence wherever possible.

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care refers to tasks of a personal nature, such as nappy changing, toileting, washing, and assistance with dressing, which require direct or indirect physical contact. These tasks are essential for the wellbeing and comfort of some children within our care.

Principles

- All children have the right to be treated with respect and dignity.
- Children's welfare and safety are paramount.
- Children will be supported to develop independence in managing their own intimate care wherever appropriate.
- Staff will work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure continuity and consistency in intimate care routines.

Procedures

1. Intimate care will only be carried out by staff who have received appropriate training and have been vetted in accordance with safeguarding requirements.
2. Whenever possible, children will be encouraged to undertake intimate care tasks themselves, with staff offering support as needed.
3. Staff will explain the procedure to the child in a manner they understand and seek their consent before proceeding.
4. Privacy will be always respected. Care will be provided in a designated area that ensures discretion.
5. Gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) will be worn by the member of staff during intimate care tasks to prevent cross-contamination.
6. Any concerns regarding a child's welfare or unusual behaviour will be recorded and reported to the designated safeguarding lead.
7. Records of intimate care provided will be kept securely and shared with parents/carers as appropriate.

Partnership with Parents and Carers

Staff at Hall Lane Pre-School understand that parents and carers are the experts on their child's needs. We will work closely with families to understand routines, preferences, and any medical or cultural considerations. Regular communication will be maintained to ensure that care is consistent and responsive.

Safeguarding and Confidentiality

All intimate care will be provided in line with our safeguarding and child protection policies. We will always maintain confidentiality, except where there is a concern for the child's welfare. Any disclosures or incidents will be reported in accordance with safeguarding procedures.

Training and Support

Staff will receive appropriate training and guidance. Support will be sought from NSPCC guidance, if necessary to ensure they feel confident and comfortable in carrying out these tasks.