

Intimate Care Policy

Introduction

Springfields Pre-school is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children or young people will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children/young people with respect and dignity when intimate care is given.

What is intimate care?

Intimate care encompasses areas of personal care, such as nappy changing, washing and dressing.

Our approach to best practice

Support for children/young people with intimate care needs will be carefully planned and should be a positive experience for all involved.

The setting will ensure that:

- Staff who provide intimate care are trained to meet the needs of individual children.
- All staff adhere to the setting's safeguarding and child protection policy.
- Suitable equipment and facilities are made available.
- Staff carrying out intimate care are appropriately supported.
- Where possible one to one care will be provided unless there is an identified need for having more adults.
- Intimate care is discussed and agreed with parents and carers.
- The needs and wishes of the child/young person are taken into consideration.
- Intimate care is logged and recorded. The record will include the date and time the intimate care was carried out and by whom.
- The constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation are taken into account.
- Mobile phones or cameras are not used by children or staff in areas where intimate care is carried out.

Intimate care – safeguarding children

Suffolk Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Safeguarding Procedures will be adhered to alongside the setting's safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures.

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical or behavioural changes in a child/young person's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness, they will immediately pass their concerns to the Designated Persons for child protection in their setting, Amy Jacobs or Leanda Carter.

Intimate care should be a positive experience for both staff and the child or young person. Adults need to be vigilant about their own behaviour, ensure they follow agreed guidelines and be mindful of the needs of the children and young people with whom they work. In the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff the procedures for Allegations of Abuse (as per the guidance and flow chart) will be followed.

Visits and outings

The setting has robust procedures and plans in place for the day to day intimate care needs of a child or young person, but further consideration will need to be taken in good time before a trip or for an activity.

Signed on behalf of Springfields Pre-school