



INTIMATE CARE POLICY

In situations where intimate care is required, the child's safety, dignity and privacy are of paramount importance. Children requiring intimate care will be treated respectfully at all times.

'Intimate care' covers any task that involves the washing, touching or carrying out of a procedure to intimate personal areas and is associated with bodily functions and personal hygiene; toileting, washing, dressing, and menstrual care.

Staff at Fusion who provide intimate care will do so in a professional manner. Staff are aware of safeguarding issues and will have relevant training before providing intimate care. No child should suffer distress or pain as a result of receiving intimate care.

Staff will work in partnership with parents/carers to provide appropriate care to the needs of the individual child and together will produce a Care Plan. The Care Plan will set out:

- What care is required/ medical needs
- Number of staff needed to carry out the task (if more than one person is required, reasons will be documented)
- Equipment required
- Child's preferred means of communication (e.g. verbal, visual)
- Child's level of ability – what tasks they are able to carry out by themselves

Dealing with blood and body fluids

Blood, vomit, urine and faeces will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of safely by double bagging the waste and removing it from the premises. When dealing with body fluids, staff will wear personal protective clothing (disposable plastic gloves and aprons) and will wash themselves thoroughly afterwards. Soiled children's clothing will be bagged to go home – staff will not rinse it. Children will be kept away from the affected area until the incident has been dealt with fully. Staff at Fusion will maintain high standards of personal hygiene and will take all practicable steps to prevent and control the spread of infection.

Best practice

When intimate care is given, the member of staff will explain fully each task that is carried out, and the reasons for it. Staff will encourage children to do as much for themselves as they can.

We have policies in place that promote Safe Recruitment, as well as having sound Staff Supervision, Safeguarding and this Intimate Care procedures; together these ensure that should a child need consistent care from a member of staff, the child's safety and well-being will not be compromised. If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the procedure set out in the **Safeguarding Policy** will be followed.

Protecting children

Staff are familiar with the Local Safeguarding Children Board booklet Recognising The Signs Of Child Abuse and What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused (March 2015). Fusion's procedures reflect the guidance in the Government guide Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015, updated 16/2/17).

If a member of staff is concerned about any physical changes to a child, such as marks, bruises, soreness etc, they will inform the Management Team or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately. The **Safeguarding Policy** will then be implemented.

Adopted on:	Last reviewed on:	Reviewed on:	Next review Date:
04.01.13	01.04.18	01.04.19	April 2020
<i>Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2017): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Special educational needs [3.67] and Child protection [3.6] and Suitable people [3.9-3.13].</i>			
Signed and approved:	Fusion Childcare Services		