



## **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 always be treated respectfully.

'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 Pre-School Southdown 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 (eg. verbal, visual)
- Child's level of ability – what tasks they can carry out independently

### **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, face mask and aprons) and will wash themselves thoroughly afterwards. Soiled children's clothing will be bagged to go home and kept by the main door – staff will not rinse or wash clothing. Children will be kept away from the affected area until the incident has been dealt with fully. Staff at Fusion Pre-School Southdown will maintain high standards of personal hygiene and will take all practicable steps to prevent and control the spread of infection.

### **Personal care for children in nappies**

- Children will be changed by members of staff when we have received an enhanced DBS check.
- Nappies will be changed in the toilet area using a changing mat.
- Wipes and nappies should be provided by the parent. If no wipes have been provided we will use hypoallergenic wipes to clean the child. We will use no other cream or lotions.
- The nappy will be double wrapped and disposed of appropriately.
- Staff will wear disposable gloves and aprons whilst dealing with soiled nappies.
- The changing area will be cleaned after each use.
- Hot water and liquid soap is available to wash hands as soon as the task is completed.
- Paper towels are available for drying hands.

- If a child has an accident, a member of staff will change the child wearing gloves and placing the wet clothes in a bag and telling the parent/carer when the child is collected.

Parent helpers, students or visitors at Fusion Pre-School Southdown are made aware that only members of staff who have had an enhanced DBS check are able to take children to the toilet at any time.

**Best practice**

When intimate care is given, the member of staff will verbally 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, using dolls/teddies/resources to demonstrate what they need to do. Where possible, there will be 2 staff present, if this is not possible, doors will remain open, and staff will try and limit the time they are inside the toilet with the child.

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 Partnership Booklet - Recognising the Signs Of Child Abuse and What To Do If You’re Worried A Child Is Being Abused (2015). Fusion Pre-School Southdown’s procedures reflect the guidance in the Government guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).

If a member of staff is concerned about a child and abuse, they will inform the Management Team or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately. The **Safeguarding Policy** will then be implemented. Equally, if, a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the procedure set out in our **Safeguarding Children** policy will be followed.

Should a child become unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the Leader will investigate and record any findings. These will be discussed with the child’s parents/carers in order to resolve the issue. If necessary, the Leader will seek advice from outside agencies. Where possible, children will not just be dependent on one member of staff, so that the child is less likely to become overly dependent on a single member of staff, and to become distressed if their usual carer is unavailable. However, parents’ views on the number of staff providing personal care to their child must also be taken into consideration - some children may simply be unable to cope with more than one carer.

<b>Adopted on:</b>	<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	<b>Reviewed on:</b>	<b>Next review Date:</b>
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Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2024): <i>Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Suitable people [3.9-3.15]; Toilets and Intimate hygiene [3.71], health [3.51-3.54]; Concerns about Children’s safety and welfare [3.7,3.8].</i>			
Signed and approved:	Fusion Pre-School Southdown		