Intimate Care Policy

Intimate care routines are necessary to ensure that children's needs are met throughout the day in the nursery setting; these include nappy changes and support with toileting, changes of clothing, first aid treatment and medical support as required.

We always treat children with respect and dignity by ensuring that the child's key person carries personal care as much as possible, we limit the number of practitioners who carry out personal care throughout the day to key person or secondary key person where possible. Children's intimate care will only ever be carried out by a trusted and familiar adult to the individual child.

Intimate care will be carried out on a one-to-one basis except for example administering medication which requires a witness and delivering first aid which requires a suitably qualified staff member who may need support.

The safety and welfare of children and staff during intimate care routines is paramount therefore we have several practices to support this.

These include:

- Embedding a strong key person system to maintain consistent caring relationships for children.
- Ensuring that all members of staff working in the nursery have enhanced DBS checks and are suitable to work with children, ensuring they must have the relevant qualifications, training and have passed any required checks to fulfil their roles.
- Training practitioners so that they understand the appropriate methods to use for various aspects of intimate care and arranging specialist training where required e.g., specialist medical support.
- Children's privacy is considered and balanced with safeguarding and support needs when changing nappies and toileting. Intimate care routines will take place in a dedicated space away from the main nursery rooms however practitioners remain visible to other staff in the room.
- Ensuring all staff members are given a thorough induction which covers policies and best practice for all procedures relating to intimate care.
- Working closely with parents with regards to the levels of support required by each child and how these change over time, particularly where specialist training or support is required.

- Ensuring staff members' knowledge and understanding of safeguarding and how to protect children from harm is kept up to date, including ability or identify signs and symptoms of abuse and how to raise concerns.
- Operating a whistleblowing policy to ensure staff members are confident in knowing how to raise any concerns about a colleague or manager and supported in discussing worries as they arise.
- Regularly reviewing risk assessments relating to intimate care routines and ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place to mitigate any potential risk to any individual involved.
- The staff member will record each change, including the time and whether nappy cream was applied. Nappy cream will be used only with prior parental consent and must be supplied in date and labelled with the child's name.
- We support children to become independent and allow them to manage their own personal care as much as possible.

If a parent or carer has a question or concern relating to intimate care routines, they should speak to a senior member of staff at the nursery.

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