



Stow ELC Intimate Care Policy

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate Care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive procedure that most children carry out for themselves. However, some children are unable to do due to physical disability, additional support needs associated with learning difficulties, medical needs or needs arising from the child's stage of development.

Intimate Care may involve help with drinking, eating, dressing and toileting. Help may also be needed with changing colostomy bags and other such equipment. It may also require the administration of invasive medication and Therapy programmes.

In most cases Intimate Care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene and the cleaning of equipment associated with the process. In the case of a specialised procedure, only a person suitably trained and assessed as competent should carry out the procedure.

Staff providing Intimate Care must be aware of the need to adhere to good Child Protection practice in order to minimise the risks for both children and staff. It is important that staff are supported and trained so that they feel confident in their practice.

Policy Statement

We understand that children attending our ELC may be at the stage of mastering toileting or that they have specific care needs relating to intimate care. It is our intention to ensure that we promote independence and self-care skills as appropriate to the age, physical capability and understanding of each child.

Health and Social Care Standards My support, My life 2017, Scottish Government. As part of being registered with the Care Inspectorate, we must comply with this document and illustrate the standards within our ELC.

1.0 I experience high quality care and support that is right for me.

1.4 If I require intimate personal care, this is carried out in a dignified way, with my privacy and personal preferences respected.

4.11 I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.

5.4 If I require intimate personal care, there is a suitable area for this, including a sink if needed.

Aims

We want all our children to feel secure and relaxed while receiving the highest standards of care. We understand that for a child to feel comfortable in receiving intimate care and for the family to have confidence in staff to provide this service that we must be sensitive in our approach. Sharing information about our procedures and working in partnerships with families to enable us to provide intimate care in a way that best suits the needs of the child.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (1989):

Article 16: (Right to privacy) Children have the right ...to privacy

Article 19: (Protection from violence, abuse and neglect) Children have the right ... to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

Article 23: (Children with a disability) Children have the right ... to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.

Article 34: (Sexual exploitation) Children have the right... to be free from sexual abuse

Procedure

Personal Plans

As part of our induction and settling in procedures the key worker for your child or Early Years Officer will discuss with the parent/carer any care, health or wellbeing concerns/issues that we need to know about to support the child while in nursery. It is during this conversation that we would be discussing with the parent what we can do to support any intimate care needs, and this would be recorded and shared with relevant staff. This dialogue will enable all staff who are working with the child to know how to undertake any specific care needs that are particular for that child. The content of any personal plans will be reviewed on a regular basis and in consultation with the family.

Toileting/Changing a child

To ensure that high standards of care, infection control, respect and privacy for the child the following procedures will be followed.

- The staff member who is involved in the process of toileting/changing a child will inform another member of staff of this intention with consideration to the privacy and dignity of the child involved.
- If a toileting accident results in a spill within the nursery, another adult will be asked to assist with the spill. To ensure privacy for the child, they should be taken with their bag into the toilet area to be changed.
- Ensure any spillages are cleaned up using appropriate equipment and the area is disinfected.

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- Adult to wash hands and put on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) e.g. disposable apron and gloves.
- Remove wet/soiled clothing and seal in a double nappy bag to be sent home. Dispose of solid waste matter down the toilet. Encourage the child to gently clean themselves with disposable wipes, but assist as needed. Seal used wipes in a nappy bag and dispose of in the bin.
- Help child get into dry, clean clothes as required. Encourage independence wherever possible.
- Remove all disposable PPE and dispose of appropriately.
- Adult and child to wash their hands, adult supervising this. Child to return to the ELC room.
- A staff member will ensure that the parent/carer is discreetly informed of the accident. Staff member will put the double bagged soiled clothing into the child's bag before collection time.