



Intimate Care and physical contact policy

Intimate care

During the course of a day there will be occasions we need to provide care for your child that is of a more intimate nature and involves bodily functions or personal hygiene such as nappy changing, assisting with toileting, dressing and hand washing. All staff carrying out these routines have a clean and current DBS, undertake safeguarding training every three years and take part in regular supervision meetings.

We have one bathroom with a toilet, potties and space and a mat for nappy changes, we ensure that the door remains open when staff are in the bathroom so they are visible to other members of staff to protect themselves and the child. When parents arrive we will ask them to stay in the foyer if a child and member of staff is in the bathroom. Staff will let each other know when they are taking a child to the bathroom.

We treat the children with respect and when age and ability allows encourage them to be independent and use the toilet, dress themselves and wash their hands when they are able to. When we do support them in their needs it is where possible the child's key person who will assist them and we wear protective gloves and aprons for nappy changes or where a child has soiled themselves and thoroughly wash our hands afterwards. Nappies are disposed of in sacks in our yellow bin situated around the back and outside of the hall.

We ask during the settling period about abilities and preferences relating to intimate care and any religious and cultural views. We will work with parents to support their approach to potty training and respect their preferences and requirements.

We encourage the child to have a positive body image of his/her own body. Confident, assertive children who feel their body belongs to them are less vulnerable to abuse.

As well as after using the bathroom, we encourage children to wash their hands before eating and after messy play.

Physical contact

Most young children will want to be consoled when upset or unsettled and we as childcare practitioners will give them that comfort when they need it in order to make them feel safe and secure. We will never cuddle a child if they haven't initiated it or asked for one.

We will also apply suncream to children as part of our sun safety policy. We change gloves between each child for this, apply the cream within the main hall within sight of other members of staff, and encourage the children to help apply it, taking care to ensure it is applied properly.

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