



Emscote Infant School

EYFS Intimate Care and Toileting Policy

Date of publication February 2024

Review date February 2027

Written by Laura Nicol - Head of School **Executive Headteacher** – Jon Queralt

Aims

Our main aim is to enable every child to achieve his or her potential. To do this, we need to create a peaceful environment in which tolerance, mutual cooperation and stability are encouraged, so that each child can work productively, learn to make decisions, use his or her own judgement and co-operate courteously with others.

As a school, we are trying to achieve these high standards by responding professionally, sensitively and caringly to the needs of all our pupils.

Intimate care is defined as care involving washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas which some children may need support in doing because of their young age, physical difficulties or other special needs.

Where a child has intimate care needs, members of staff take responsibility to provide their care. We address issues on an individual basis.

Due to the developmental stages of the children that we work with, we support them with their personal care: reminding the children to go to the toilet, hygiene etc to develop their independence. As outlined in the foundation stage curriculum, we are responsible for children's personal care skills, as an essential part of Personal, Social and Emotional Development "Managing Self", in order to be able to access the rest of the curriculum.

From time to time some children will have accidents and need to be attended to. Parents are asked to supply a bag of clean clothes for their child in a named bag to be kept in their locker. These are taken into the toilet facilities prior to changing. However, a small supply of spare clothing is available if necessary and parents are asked to return this as soon as possible.

If a child has needed help with meeting intimate care needs (had an accident). This is treated as confidential and shared with the parents in person at the end of the day. Staff complete a record in school for reference.

On rare occasions a child may come to our setting wearing nappies. We support children sensitively and with dignity in this matter and an individual recording log would be completed for the child.

IMPLEMENTATION

Staff training

All staff are knowledgeable about intimate care/personal care. They are aware of their responsibilities, relevant policies and procedures in place (including adhering to Child Protection, Health and Safety, Confidentiality). The designated employed adults are DBS checked and have received training for very specific intimate care procedures where they are relevant. They undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. They are fully aware of best practice including hygiene.

Intimate care / personal care plan

If a child requires regular assistance with intimate care, staff meet with the parents to discuss the child's needs and devise an agreed intimate / personal care plan. Relevant health personnel are involved if needed. We monitor and review the plan on a regular basis.

Practice

The designated practitioners who provide the care (in most cases a Teaching assistant) forms a strong, trusting relationship with the child. They ensure that it is a positive experience that is safe and comfortable for all. Whilst the child is having their needs met, it is treated as a time to converse and promote their personal development.

The child is encouraged to undertake as much of the procedure for themselves as possible, including wiping intimate areas, dressing/undressing and hygiene.

The Early Years toilet area is used to attend to a child's needs and every effort is made to ensure privacy and modesty.

Most procedures are carried out by just the designated persons. However, careful consideration is given to the child's individual circumstances to determine how many practitioners might need to be present when a child needs help with intimate care.

If a child is unhappy or anxious about the care being provided, the issue will be addressed to ensure that we continually meet a child's needs.

Working with parents

We work closely with parents to identify and ensure we meet the child's needs. We seek to engage in regular communication with parents and monitor and review plans together.

Working with outside agencies

We work closely with outside agencies and utilise their knowledge and expertise where necessary. The SENDCO coordinates this approach.

Disposal of nappies, aprons and gloves safely

We have in place good hygiene practices when disposing of waste to stop infection.

We follow stringent nappy changing procedures, when appropriate, to ensure the safe disposal of waste, see below.

Changing a nappy

A clean disposable apron and gloves is worn every time a child is changed for soiling after having washed their hands thoroughly.

Clean, disposable gloves are worn every time a child is changed when wet after having washed their hands thoroughly.

Whilst changing, children's skin is cleaned with a disposable wipe if needed.

Nappies and 'pull ups', gloves, aprons and wipes are disposed of hygienically and safely by double bagging and placing in a bin.

This bin is emptied at the end of the day.

Policy review

It is the responsibility of the Early Years' staff to follow this policy. This policy was updated in February 2024 It is reviewed every 3 years by the governors and updated with liaison by all staff and in line with discussions with children, parents and carers. This document should be read alongside the EYFS Home Visit Policy and EYFS policy.