Intimate Care Policy

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene, which demand direct or indirect contact with, or the exposure of genitals. Examples include care associated with continence.

Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Practitioners who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. Practitioners' behaviour is open to scrutiny and staff at Pippins and Bramleys work in partnership with parent/carers to provide continuity of care to children wherever possible.

Educators deliver a full personal safety curriculum, as part of Personal, Social and Health Education, to all children as appropriate to their developmental level and degree of understanding. This work is shared with parents who are encouraged to reinforce the personal safety messages within the home.

Pippins and Bramleys is committed to ensuring that all Educators responsible for the intimate care of the children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. The setting recognises that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Our approach to best practice
All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Educators who provide intimate care are fully aware of best practice. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/ occupational therapist as required.

Educators will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of the individual children, taking into account developmental changes.

There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care, in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic, etc) to discuss the child's needs and preferences. The child is aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.

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As a basic principle, children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible, given their ages and abilities. Practitioners will encourage each child to do as much for themselves as they can.

Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many carers might need to be present when a child needs help with intimate care. Where possible, one child will be cared for by one adult, unless there is a sound reason for having two adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented.

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc she/he will immediately report concerns to the appropriate person for child protection. A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred on if necessary. (see Safeguarding Policy)

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular Educators, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process, in order to reach a resolution. The child's need will remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.

Best Practice Procedure

- All Educators will have received a clear enhanced DBS before undertaking intimate care.
- Educators must verbally inform another Educators when they will be undertaking intimate care.
- Good hygiene procedure will be followed i.e. washing hands before/after care, using gloves, sterilising changing mat before/after care, Sterilising Aprons before/after use , taking soiled nappies straight to the outside bin, wrapping soiled clothes in plastic bags.
- The child's privacy will be maintained at all times. Adults are not to close the toilet door when inside the cubicle.
- Educators must talk to the child in a relaxed, sensitive manner. They must explain to the child what actions they are taking and reasons why before the action takes place.
- The intimate care record must be completed after each occasion within the toileting section of Babydays.
- Educators should encourage child independence where appropriate.

This policy was adopted on:.....

Signed on behalf of the setting……..

Date of next review:.....