



Intimate Care Policy

At The Little Magpies Nursery, we are committed to providing high-quality care that upholds every child's dignity, safety, and emotional wellbeing. Intimate care is a sensitive aspect of early years provision, and this policy outlines how we meet our legal responsibilities in line with our ethos, the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** statutory framework, and safeguarding guidance from the **Department for Education (DfE)** and **Ofsted**.

Our Ethos and Intimate Care

In line with our ethos, we provide child-led, respectful care in a home-from-home environment. We aim to promote children's independence, privacy, and comfort during intimate care routines such as nappy changing, toileting, and dressing. Staff use **scaffolding methods** to encourage self-care skills appropriate to each child's developmental stage, while always prioritising their emotional security and consent. We strive to create an environment where children feel secure, respected, and empowered to express their needs.

What is Intimate Care?

Intimate care refers to personal care tasks involving close physical contact with the child's body, including:

- **Nappy changing** and **toileting**
- **Changing clothes** and **supporting dressing**
- **Cleaning up** after accidents or illness
- **Assisting with meals** and supporting feeding where necessary
- **Applying creams or lotions** (with parental consent)

Staff Responsibilities

- Only **trained and vetted staff** will carry out intimate care procedures, ensuring that staff understand the sensitivity of the task and the importance of adhering to safeguarding guidelines.
- Staff will promote the child's dignity, respect, and comfort at all times.
- Care will be carried out in a calm, reassuring, and **age-appropriate** manner, tailored to the child's developmental stage.
- Staff will **explain the care process** to the child in clear, simple language, helping them understand what is happening and giving them an opportunity to express any concerns.
- Staff will **record** any concerns, unusual findings (e.g., skin irritation or changes in behavior), or repeated issues, and report these to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**.

Safeguarding and Consent

- **Parental consent** will be obtained for all intimate care procedures during the child's induction into the nursery, and a consent form will be completed annually, or sooner if there are changes in care needs.
- If a child **refuses care**, staff will respect their wishes. The refusal will be recorded, and staff will seek guidance from senior staff or the DSL if the refusal raises concerns.
- **Safeguarding concerns** will be reported immediately to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**, in accordance with the nursery's **Safeguarding Policy**. Any incidents or concerns regarding intimate care will be logged, and appropriate actions will be taken.
- All procedures will be monitored in line with our **safeguarding** policy to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

Environment and Privacy

- Intimate care will take place in **designated, hygienic, and safe areas**, ensuring the space is both functional and private.
- Staff will ensure the area is private by using appropriate screening and curtains, where possible, and ensuring that the child is not exposed to other children or staff unnecessarily.
- Where possible, children will be supported by a **familiar Key Person** or **co-Key Person**, ensuring consistency and a sense of security.
- **Another adult** will be made aware when intimate care is taking place to ensure transparency and to comply with our safeguarding procedures. The presence of another adult will be a safeguard for both the child and the staff member.

Children with Additional Needs

- For children with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)** or other specific care requirements, a **personalized care plan** will be developed in close collaboration with parents and relevant professionals.
- Staff will work in close partnership with families to understand routines, communication methods, preferences, and how to best support the child's independence.
- Every effort will be made to enable children to participate in their own care wherever possible, using appropriate methods to promote their involvement in the process.

Training and Professional Development

- All staff will receive **training** on intimate care as part of their induction and safeguarding responsibilities. This training will cover the key principles of safeguarding, the promotion of dignity and respect, as well as the specific practices involved in intimate care.
- Staff will be reminded periodically of best practices, including how to maintain privacy and dignity during intimate care, through regular **refresher training**.

Key Points for Parents:

- Parental consent is **always required** for intimate care procedures, and parents will be informed of any changes to care arrangements.
- Parents are encouraged to share any relevant information about their child's individual care needs and preferences.
- If a parent has any concerns about the care provided, they are welcome to discuss these with the **nursery manager** or **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be **reviewed annually** or sooner in response to updated guidance, changes in legislation, or changes in our practice. All staff will be involved in the review process to ensure that the policy remains effective and in line with current best practices.