



## **Intimate Care Policy**

### **The purpose of this policy is:**

- To safeguard the rights and promote the best interests of the children
- To ensure children are treated with sensitivity and respect, and in such a way that their experience of intimate care is a positive one
- To safeguard adults required to operate in sensitive situations
- To raise awareness and provide a clear procedure for intimate care
- To inform parents/carers in how intimate care is administered
- To ensure parents/carers are consulted in the intimate of care of their children

Bright Stars is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We take seriously our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in our care. The emotional wellbeing of our children is paramount.

We recognise the duties & responsibilities in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act which requires that any child with an impairment that affects his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities must not be discriminated against.

All staff are trained in safeguarding procedures and will report any concerns about their colleagues or children without delay to the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

### **Intimate care is defined as one of the following:**

- Supporting a child with dressing/undressing
- Providing comfort or support for a distressed child
- Assisting a child requiring medical care, who is not able to carry this out unaided
- Cleaning a child who has soiled him/herself, has vomited or feels unwell

Sometimes it will be necessary for staff to aid a child in getting dressed or undressed.

Staff will always encourage children to attempt undressing & dressing unaided.

We understand that at such an early age a child may not yet be potty trained and will change a child as required. Spare nappies/pull-up and wipes should be supplied by parents and carers.

Children will be changed by their key person or a buddy, if the key person is not present. If a child requires nappy cream then this must be provided by the parent/carer and a consent form must be completed. The nappy cream must be kept in the nappy changing area out of reach of the children.

Clothing that is soiled, for whatever reason, will only be handled by a staff member wearing disposable gloves. All dirty or wet clothing will be placed in a plastic bag and given to the parent/carer. Parents are asked to ensure a spare set of clothing is sent to into the nursery with their child each day.

### **Our Approach**

- We will always treat children with respect when intimate care is given.
- No child shall be attended to in a way that causes distress, embarrassment or pain.
- Children will be changed by their own key person or buddy.
- Staff who provide intimate care are trained to do so (including Child Protection) and are fully aware of best practice
- There is careful communication with any child who requires intimate care, in line with their preferred means of communication, to discuss needs and preferences
- Children will be supported to achieve the highest level of independence possible, in accordance with their individual needs and abilities
- Careful consideration will be given to individual situations to determine how many adults should be present during intimate care procedures.

### **Sleeping children**

If a child is tired and requires a sleep, a bed will be made in the quiet area. The child will be made comfortable by taking off any shoes or coats. Once the child is asleep the child will be monitored every 10 minutes and recorded on the nursery's daily information sheet.

Agreed by staff: Autumn 2018  
Reviewed: Autumn 2019