



Early Bloomers After School Club Intimate Care Policy

When providing intimate care, we will ensure that the child's safety, dignity and privacy are maintained at all times.

'Intimate care' covers any task that involves the washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas and is associated with bodily functions and personal hygiene, including, toileting, washing, dressing, and menstrual care.

Early Bloomers After School Club provides intimate care in a professional manner. Staff are aware of safeguarding issues and will have relevant training (e.g.: health and safety, child protection, manual handling) before providing intimate care. No child should suffer distress or pain, as a result of receiving intimate care.

If a child cannot attend to their personal care independently, staff will work in partnership with parents or carers to provide care appropriate to the needs of the individual child and together will produce a care plan, which is mindful of adopting protective measures for reducing the risks of infection and transmission of the Coronavirus between the child and the carer. The care plan will set out:

- What care is required
- Number of staff needed to carry out the task (if more than one person is required, reasons will be documented)
- Additional equipment required such as **Protective Personal Equipment**: disposable masks, gloves, apron etc as impossible to social distancing in this circumstance.
- Child's preferred means of communication (e.g., verbal, visual)
- Child's level of ability - what tasks they can carry out by themselves

Best practice

When intimate care is given, the member of staff will explain to the child each task that is carried out, and the reasons for it. Staff will encourage children to do as much for themselves as they can.

If a child requires intimate care on a regular basis, it is good practice for two members of staff to share the care between them. In this way the child is less likely to become overly dependent on a single member of staff, and to become distressed if their usual carer is occasionally unavailable. However, parents' and as much as possible children's views on the number of staff providing personal care to their child must also be taken into consideration - some children may simply be unable to cope with more than one carer.

We have policies in place that promote safe recruitment, as well as having sound staff supervision, safeguarding and intimate care procedures; together these ensure that, should a child need consistent care from one member of staff, the child's safety and well-being will not be compromised.

Protecting children

Staff are familiar with guidance from Southwark Safeguarding Partners. The Club's procedures reflect the guidance in *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)* and staff are familiar with the "What to Do if You're Worried a Child is Being Abused" flowchart (2015).

If a member of staff is concerned about any physical changes to a child, such as marks, bruises, soreness etc, they will inform the manager or the Club's Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately. The procedures set out in the **Safeguarding Children** policy will be implemented.

Should a child become unhappy about being cared for by one particular member of staff, the manager will investigate and record any findings. These will be discussed with the child's parents or carers to resolve the issue. If necessary, the Lead Practitioner will seek advice from outside agencies.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the procedures set out in the **Safeguarding Children** policy will be followed.

Dealing with blood and body fluids

Blood, vomit, urine and faeces will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of safely by double bagging the waste and removing it from the premises. When they are dealing with body fluids, staff will wear personal protective clothing (disposable gloves and aprons) and will wash themselves thoroughly afterwards. Soiled children's clothing will be bagged to go home - staff will not rinse it. Children will be kept away from the affected area until the incident has been dealt with fully.

Staff at Early Bloomers After School Club will maintain high standards of personal hygiene and will take all practicable steps to prevent and control the spread of infection.

This policy was adopted by: Early Bloomers After School Club on 12/09/2014	Review Date: August 2024
To be reviewed: Yearly or following changes in practice or legislation	Signed: Mrs Talvinder Kaur

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE, 2023): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Special educational needs and Child protection.*