

9 Early Years Practice Policy

9.9 Intimate Care and Nappy Changing

Alongside associated procedures in 9.1 to 9.17, this policy was adopted by You and Me on the 8th December 2025 by the Committee.

Children's privacy is maintained during nappy changing and toileting, whilst balanced with safeguarding considerations. Nappy changing times are key times in the day for being close and promoting security as well as for communication, exploration, and learning.

Intimate care and Toileting

- Young children from two years may be put into 'pull ups' as soon as they are comfortable with this and if parents/carers agree.
- Changing areas are warm, appropriately sited and there are safe areas to lay young children if they need to have their bottoms cleaned.
- If children refuse to lie down for nappy change, they can be changed whilst standing up, providing it is still possible to clean them effectively.
- Each young child has their own bag from home to hand with their nappies/pull ups and changing wipes.
- Our staff ensure that nappy changing is relaxed and a time to promote independence in young children.
- Young children are encouraged to take an interest in using the toilet; they may just want to sit on it.
- They are encouraged to wash their hands and have soap and paper towels to hand. They should be allowed time for some play as they explore the water and the soap.
- Staff are gentle when changing and avoid pulling faces and making negative comment about the nappy contents.
- Wipes or cotton wool and water are used to clean the child. Where cultural practices involve children being washed and dried with towels, staff aim to make reasonable adjustments to achieve the desired results in consultation with the child's parents/carers. Where this is not possible it is explained to parents/carers the reasons why. The use of wipes or cotton wool and water achieves the same outcome whilst reducing the risk of cross infection from items such as towels that are not 'single use' or disposable.
- Staff do not make inappropriate comments about young children's genitals when changing their nappies.

- Sometimes a child may have a sore bottom. This may have happened at home because of poor care; or the baby may have eaten something that, when passed, created some soreness. The child also may be allergic to a product being used. This must be noted and discussed with the parent and a plan devised and agreed to help heal the soreness. This may include use of nappy cream. If a medicated nappy cream such as Sudocream is used, this must be recorded as per procedure *4.2 Administration of Medicine*.
- Older children use the toilet when needed and are encouraged to be independent.
- Members of staffs do not wipe older children's bottoms unless there is a need, or unless the child has asked.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to provide enough changes of clothes for 'accidents' when children are potty training.
- If spare clothes are kept by the setting, they are clean, in good condition and are in a range of appropriate sizes.
- If young children are left in wet or soiled nappies/pull-ups in the setting, this may constitute neglect and will be a disciplinary matter.