



Spon Gate Primary School

Intimate Care

policy

Definition

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene including such issues as continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing.

Aims

Spon Gate Primary School is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. The school 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. Children's dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them.

Staff who provide care to children will have a high awareness of child protection issues. Staff behaviour will be open to scrutiny and staff will work in partnership with parents/carers to provide continuity of care to children whenever possible.

Staff will 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.

Our Approach

All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times, the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance. Staff who provide intimate care are fully aware of best practice. Where required, apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/occupational therapist as required.

Staff will be supported to adapt their practice in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation.

There will be careful communication (verbal, symbolic, etc.) to discuss the child's needs and preferences. The child will be made aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.

As a basic principle, children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for themselves as they can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves. 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 is toileted. Where possible one child will be catered for by one adult unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. If this is the case, the reasons should be clearly documented.

Wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis; ideally there will be a rota of carers, known to the child, who will take turns in providing care. This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, whilst at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different carers. Wherever possible staff should only care intimately for an individual of the same

sex. However, in certain circumstances this principle may need to be waived where staff of the same gender are not available.

Parents/carers will be involved with their child's intimate care arrangements on a regular basis. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be carefully considered alongside any possible constraints e.g. staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

The Protection of Children

Education Child Protection Procedures and Inter-Agency Child Protection procedures will be adhered to. All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding. If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the designated person for child protection. If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, 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.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed.