



Intimate Care Policy

Bijou Day Nursery & Crèche, Cowbridge

Policy owner: Nursery Manager / Rheolwr y Feithrinfa

Version: 2.0

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Approved by: Samantha Rennison, Responsible Individual / Unigolyn Cyfrifol

1. Policy Statement

Bijou Day Nursery & Crèche is committed to ensuring that all children who require intimate care are treated with dignity, respect, and sensitivity. Intimate care tasks are carried out in a way that protects children's rights, safeguards their welfare, and promotes their independence and well-being.

This policy complies with the Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010 (as amended), the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare (2016), the Children Act 1989 and 2004, the Equality Act 2010, and CIW safeguarding guidance. Staff follow the Welsh Government's 'Safeguarding children: working together under the Children Act 2004' guidance.

2. Definition

Intimate care includes any care task that involves direct or indirect contact with an intimate/private area of the body, including:

- Nappy changing
- Toileting assistance (wiping, changing wet or soiled clothes)
- Applying creams or lotions to intimate areas (e.g., nappy cream)
- Bathing or washing (in the event of a toileting accident or illness)
- Assisting with dressing/undressing for any reason

3. Principles

- **Dignity:** Every child's right to privacy and dignity is respected. Intimate care is carried out in a designated, private area
- **Consent:** Staff explain to the child what they are doing, using age-appropriate language. Verbal consent from the child is sought where possible. If a child verbally or physically resists, staff pause and try again with a different approach or carer — a child's wishes are always respected
- **Safeguarding:** Staff are trained to be aware that intimate care situations are times when children may disclose abuse. Any disclosures are handled in line with our Safeguarding Policy
- **Independence:** Children are encouraged and supported to do as much as they can for themselves, promoting self-care skills appropriate to their age and stage of development

- **Consistency:** Where possible, the child's key person or a familiar adult provides intimate care to maintain continuity and trust

4. Procedures

- Intimate care procedures are agreed with parents at registration — including who will provide care and any specific requirements (e.g., preferred nappy cream, cultural considerations)
- Staff always wear disposable gloves and aprons
- The changing area is clean, warm, and equipped with all necessary supplies
- Staff never leave a child unattended on a changing mat or table
- Hands are washed by both the child (where appropriate) and the staff member afterwards
- A record of intimate care tasks (nappy changes) is maintained and available to parents

5. Children with Additional Needs

- Individual intimate care plans are developed for children with disabilities or additional needs, in partnership with parents and health professionals
- Reasonable adjustments are made to equipment and procedures
- Plans are reviewed regularly

6. Staff Conduct

- Staff maintain professional boundaries at all times during intimate care
- No intimate care task is ever used as a punishment or reward
- Staff report any concerns about a child's intimate care needs or any unusual marks/injuries to the Nursery Manager and Designated Safeguarding Person immediately

7. Related Policies

- Nappy Changing Policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Infection Control Policy