

09 Early years practice procedures

09.9 Prime times – Intimate care and nappy changing

Prime times of the day make the best of routine opportunities to promote ‘tuning-in’ to the child emotionally and to create opportunities for learning. 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.

Young children, intimate care, and toileting of all

children in Nursery

- Young children are usually changed by their keyperson or another staff member who holds a DBS and within sight or hearing of other staff whilst always maintaining their dignity and privacy.
- There is a daily list of personalised changing or checking times for all young children who wear nappies or pullups which is updated when nappies or pullups are changed.
- Key persons undertake changing young children wherever possible; Other Staff members who hold a DBS will change them if the key person is absent or not available.
- All members of staff are familiar with the hygiene procedures and carry these out when changing nappies, gloves are always worn at all nappy changes.
- Key persons and all staff ensure that nappy changing is relaxed and a happy time for young children.
- Key persons never turn their back on a child or leave them unattended on a changing mat.
- Key persons avoid pulling faces and making negative comment about the nappy contents.
- Key persons do not make inappropriate comments about babies’ genitals, nor attempt to pull back a baby boy’s foreskin to clean unless there is a genuine need to do so for hygiene purposes.
- Our changing area is warm in the bathroom and there is a safe adjustable changing bench to lay young children if they need to have their bottoms cleaned if required.
- From two years old we promote standing up for nappy/ pullup changes if the child is able and can comply, and providing it is still possible to clean them effectively.
- Each young child has his/her own named bag with their nappies/pull ups and changing wipes, and changes of clothes.



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- Key persons 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.
- Key persons 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.
- Key persons do not make inappropriate comments about young children's genitals when changing their nappies.
- Older children use the toilet when needed and are encouraged to be independent.

Nappy changing records.

- Key persons record when they changed the young child and whether they have urinated or passed a stool and will inform parents if there was anything unusual about it.
- Exceptionally soft, loose or watery stools are signs of diarrhoea; strict hygiene needs to be carried out in cleaning the changing area to prevent spread of infection. The parent/carer should be called to inform them, and that if any further symptoms occur, they may be required to collect their child. They can return to nursery 48hours after last episode.
- Sometimes a young child may have a sore bottom. This must be discussed with the parent/ carers and a verbal plan devised and agreed to help heal the soreness. This may include use of a nappy cream. If a medicated nappy cream such as Sudocrem is used, parents have given written consent prior on the child's registration form.