

09 Early years practice procedures

09.9 Intimate care and nappy changing

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

- Wherever possible, key persons undertake changing their key children.
- Changing areas are warm, appropriately sited and there are safe areas to lay young children if they need to have their bottoms cleaned. There are mobiles or other objects of interest to take the child's attention.
- Each child has his/her own bag to hand with their nappies/pull ups and changing wipes.
- Staff ensure that nappy changing is relaxed and a time to promote independence in young children.
- Children are encouraged to take an interest in using the toilet; they may just want to sit on it and talk to a friend who is also using the toilet.
- Children 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.
- Anti-bacterial hand wash liquid or soap is not used by children, as they are no more effective than ordinary soap and water.
- Key persons are gentle when changing and do not pull faces or make 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. Where this is not possible it is explained to parents 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 as a result 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 or leaving the

baby without a nappy in some circumstances. If a medicated nappy cream such as Sudocrem is used, this is recorded as per procedure 04.2 Administration of medicine.

- Older children use the toilet when needed and are encouraged to be independent.
- Staff do not wipe older children's bottoms unless there is a need, or unless the child has asked.
- Parents 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 'gender neutral' i.e. neutral colours, and 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.

Nappy changing is always done in an appropriate/designated area. Children are not changed in play areas or next to snack tables.