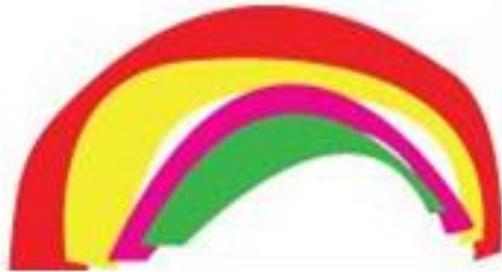


Thomas Coram Centre and Nursery School



Intimate Care Policy 2020
Reviewed by Teaching and Learning
Committee
To be reviewed Spring 2022

Thomas Coram Centre Intimate Care Policy

At Thomas Coram Centre we aim to ensure that all staff responsible for intimate care of children will undertake their duties to the highest professional standard and that all children will be treated with the utmost respect when intimate care is given. No child will be attended to in a way that causes them distress or discomfort.

Introduction

- This is any care which involves washing or carrying out an intimate procedure (such as cleaning up a child after they have soiled themselves). In most cases care will involve cleaning for hygiene purposes as part of a staff member's duty of care. In the case of a specific procedure only a person suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure.

Approach to best practice

- The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and will require staff to be respectful of children's needs at all times. Children's dignity should always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control when care is required.
- There should be a high awareness of child protection issues within this work and staffs' behaviour must be open to scrutiny at all times. Staff must work in partnership with parents/carers.
- It is essential that children are given appropriate opportunities to contribute to their own personal needs- for example being given the time and encouragement to pull down their clothing or attempt to dress themselves.

Procedures

- Children who may need specialised intimate care have identified staff to support them.
- Staff will be supported to adapt practice in relation to the needs of individual children's developmental stages e.g. toilet training.
- Children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff to encourage each child to do as much for him/herself as he/she can.
- The changing areas around the school are clear and accessible to all members of staff. When staff change children they ensure other staff are nearby.
- Parents and carers are not allowed to supervise children in the class toilet areas unless they can be closely supervised by a member of staff who will ensure no other children are present.
- Staff will always wear appropriate safety clothing and gloves when dealing with a child needing intimate care.

- Appropriate facilities and equipment e.g. nappy bags will be used to dispose of any waste materials and put in the sanitised nappy bins. The bins are emptied twice a week.
- Parents will be asked to provide school with nappies, extra clothing, and encouraged to bring their own wet-wipes to be kept in school. Soiled clothing will be placed in a bag and labelled with the child's name.
- Clear processes and guidance in intimate care should be highlighted to all staff upon their induction. New staff should be given the opportunity to discuss any queries or uncertainties they may have in relation to this policy.
- Under no circumstances should short-term students, work experience volunteers or visitors be asked to give intimate care.
- When providing intimate care, staff should carefully and sensitively observe the child's emotional response and report any concerns to the designated officer.
- In the event that intimate care is necessary while children are outside of school on an educational visit, a member of staff must always be present to support toileting. Only members of staff can attend to the intimate needs of any child (who is not with their main carer). Where changing mats are only available in toilet cubicles, the door should be left open with another staff member ensuring privacy.