

# INTIMATE CARE POLICY

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The Federation 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. We recognise 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, embarrassment or pain.

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out a procedure (such as cleaning up after a child has soiled himself/herself) to intimate personal areas. In most cases such care will involve procedures to do with personal hygiene and the cleaning of equipment associated with the process as part of a staff member's duty of care.

There may be times when staff will need to provide intimate care for a child: this may include bottom wiping, nappy changing, removing clothes due to soiling or vomiting. Staff will follow the procedure below:

- Always treat the children they are supporting with dignity and respect.
- Explain to the child that the staff member needs to help them to get cleaned up. If age appropriate ask them to perform some of the tasks themselves.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be worn by staff in order to prevent cross contamination. PPE is single-use equipment and must be disposed of after every use in the bin provided.
- Soiled clothing/items will be double wrapped and either disposed of or handed back to parent/guardian.
- All efforts will be made to provide a private space for the child to be changed in. This area may change depending on session time and the needs of the child. If changing takes place on the floor a changing mat will be used.
- Children will not be lifted or supported under the arms.
- Before leaving the bathroom, staff will encourage and ensure that the child has washed their hands.
- Surfaces must always be disinfected after use to avoid cross contamination.
- Staff will wash their hands and use the antibacterial gel provided.
- Only staff will be allowed to provide intimate care. Students, parents and volunteers are NOT permitted to do this.
- If a child objects to a member of staff providing intimate care, parents will be contacted to come and provide the care themselves if necessary.
- Children will be encouraged to be as independent as possible.