

09 Early years practice procedures

Intimate care and nappy changing

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.

Nappy changing records.

- Staff record when they changed a child's nappy
- A stool that is an unusual colour can usually be related to the food that was eaten, so it is important that this is noted. However, a stool that is black, green, red or very white indicates a problem, and the child should be taken to the doctor.
- Exceptionally soft, 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.
- Sometimes a child may have a sore nappy area. This may have happened at home because of poor care; or they 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 without a nappy with parents' agreement.
- Changing areas are appropriately sited and there are safe areas to lay young children. The experience should be caring with lots of communication.
- Each child has their own bag from home with their nappies/pull ups and changing wipes and nappy bags.
- 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 and talk to a friend who is also using the toilet.
- They 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.
- 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.

- Older children use the toilet when needed and are encouraged to be independent.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to provide enough changes of clothes for 'accidents when children are potty training.