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**Intimate Care**

**Policy statement**

No child is excluded from participating in our setting who may, for any reason, not yet be toilet trained or need support with toileting hygiene. We work with parents towards toilet training and hygiene unless there are medical or other developmental reasons why this may not be appropriate at the time.

We provide changing facilities should they be required and exercise good hygiene practices in order to accommodate children who need toileting support.

We see toilet training as a self-care skill that children have the opportunity to learn with the full support and non-judgemental concern of adults.

**Procedures**

* Our staff put on gloves and aprons before changing starts and the areas are prepared.
* All our staff are familiar with our hygiene procedures and carry these out when changing and supporting children .
* We are gentle when changing; we avoid pulling faces and making negative comments about ‘soiled underwear’.
* We do not make inappropriate comments about children’s genitals when changing them.
* In addition, we ensure that toileting is relaxed and a time to promote independence in young children.
* We encourage children to take an interest in being independent when using the toilet.
* We encourage children to wash their hands, and have soap and a hand dryer.
* Children access the toilet when they have the need to and are encouraged to be independent.
* Clothes that have been wet or soiled are bagged for parents to take home.
* We have a ‘duty of care’ towards children’s personal needs. If children are left in wet or soiled clothing in the setting this may constitute neglect and will be a disciplinary matter.