

Pioneer Childcare

Intimate Care Policy

At Pioneer Childcare we have policies and procedures in place that promote safe recruitment, and sound safeguarding and intimate care. Our staff are supported through regular Supervision time with their Line Manager.

We recognise that from time-to-time children will require intimate care, such as after a toileting accident or as a result of being unwell. In intimate care situations, the child's safety, dignity, and privacy are of paramount importance. Children requiring intimate care will be treated respectfully at all times.

'Intimate care' covers any task that involves washing, touching, or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas and is associated with bodily functions and personal hygiene, including, toileting, washing, dressing, and menstrual care.

Staff are aware of safeguarding issues and will have relevant training (e.g., health and safety, child protection, manual handling) before providing intimate care. No child should suffer distress or discomfort as a result of receiving intimate care.

Best practice

When intimate care is needed it is ideal, where possible, that two members of staff be on hand to provide intimate care. The members of staff will explain fully each task that is carried out and the reasons for it. Staff will encourage children to do as much for themselves as they can.

All incidents of intimate care must be recorded on an **Incident Form** and shared with the parent upon collection. Each staff member involved with the intimate care will also sign the Incident Form.

If a child requires ongoing intimate care, conversations with the parent/carer will be managed in a sensitive and confidential manner and the club manager will:

- Speak with the child's parent/carer to find out if there are any underlying medical conditions or other reasons that may be causing the child to require intimate care.
- Discuss any measures that can be put in place to support their child and agree a plan.
- Agree a time to review the plan and consider whether the strategies are effective and what the next steps are.

Protecting children

Staff are familiar with the DfE booklet *What To Do If You Think A Child Is Being Abused* and *Keeping Children Safe in Education Part One* and will follow the guidance contained in them.

If a member of staff is concerned about any physical changes to a child, such as marks, bruises, soreness etc, they will inform the manager or the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately. The **Safeguarding Children Policy and Prevent Policy** will then be implemented.

Should a child become unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the manager will investigate the situation and record any findings. These will be discussed with the child's parents/carers in order to resolve any problems that may have arisen. If necessary, the manager will seek advice from the DSL.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the procedure set out in the **Safeguarding Children Policy** will be followed.

Dealing with blood and body fluids

Blood, vomit, urine, and faeces will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of safely by double bagging the waste, binning it and/or removing it from the premises as appropriate. When they are dealing with body fluids, staff will wear personal protective clothing and will wash themselves thoroughly afterwards, ensuring that these items are disposed of hygienically, and not in kitchen or food preparation areas. Soiled children's clothing will be bagged to go home – staff will not rinse or wash it. Children will be kept away from the affected area until the incident has been dealt with fully.

A child who has their clothes bagged to be sent home will be given “spare” clothing to wear until they are collected. We ask that any “spare” clothes are thoroughly washed, dried, and returned to club as soon as possible.

In instances where a child refuses to get changed or the club does not have any spare clothing, the child’s parent/carer will be contacted and asked to either provide another set of clothes for their child to get changed into or collect them from club.

Staff at Pioneer Childcare will maintain high standards of personal hygiene and will take all practicable steps to prevent and control the spread of infection.

Related policies: Safeguarding Children, Prevent, Confidentiality, Code of Conduct

This policy was adopted by: Pioneer Childcare Ltd	Date: 25 th January 2024
To be reviewed: 24 th January 2025	Signed: <i>J. Wilkins</i>

Written in accordance with the EYFS welfare requirements: Safeguarding and promoting children’s welfare and Suitable people.