**This policy has been created for settings to adapt in accordance with their own practice to meet the requirements regarding intimate care as described in the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework 2024.**

**Intimate Care Policy**

Intimate care is an essential part of making sure a child's basic needs are met. When providing intimate care, Sunflowers preschool ensures it is carried out in a safe, respectful and child-centered way.

**What is intimate care?**

Intimate care is a term used to describe activities involved in meeting the personal care needs of a child. It includes providing care which requires direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, private parts of the body, such as:

* changing nappies, underwear, continence pads or sanitary wear
* helping a child use the toilet
* bathing, showering or washing
* providing some forms of specialist medical care (such as inserting suppositories or pessaries).

It can also involve other forms of physical care, sometimes referred to as ‘personal care’, including:

* feeding
* changing outer layers of clothing
* applying or administering external or oral medication
* hair care
* washing non-intimate body parts
* prompting children to go to the toilet.

Sunflowers preschool aims to support children's care and welfare on a daily basis in line with their individual needs. All children need contact with familiar, consistent carers to ensure they can grow confidently and feel self-assured. At times children need to be cuddled, encouraged, held and offered physical reassurance.

In order to maintain the child's privacy, the majority of these actions will take place on a one-to-one basis and wherever possible will be supported by the child's keyworker, with the exception of the first aid treatment that will be conducted by a qualified first aider.

We wish to ensure the safety and welfare of the children involved in intimate care routines and safeguard against any potential harm as well as ensuring the staff member involved is fully supported and able to perform their duties safely and confidently. Through the following actions we will endeavour to support all parties:

* Promote consistent and caring relationships through the keyworker system and ensure all parents understand how this works.
* Ensure all staff undertaking intimate care routines have suitable enhanced DBS checks.
* Train all staff in the appropriate methods for intimate care routines and access specialist training where required, i.e. first aid training, specialist medical support.
* Conduct thorough inductions for all new staff to ensure they are fully aware of all nursery procedures relating to intimate care routines.
* Follow up on these procedures through supervision meetings and appraisals to identify any areas for development or further training.
* Work closely with parents on all aspects of the child's care and education. This is essential for intimate care routines which require specialist training or support. If a child requires specific support, we will arrange a meeting with the parent to discover all the relevant information relating to this to enable the staff to care for the child fully and meet their individual needs.
* Ensure all staff have an up-to-date understanding of safeguarding and how to protect children from harm. This will include identifying signs and symptoms of abuse and how to raise these concerns in the most appropriate and speedy manner.

The setting operates a whistleblowing policy as a means for staff to raise concerns relating to their colleagues. The management will support this by ensuring staff feel confident in raising worries as they arise in order to safeguard the children in the nursery.

The management team regularly conducts working practice observations on all aspects of Sunflowers preschool’s operations to ensure that procedures are working in practice and all children are supported fully by the staff. This includes intimate care routines.

Staff will be trained in behaviour management techniques which may include using physical intervention where required, e.g. if a child is likely to hurt themselves or others. Please refer to the Sunflowers preschool’s behaviour policy for further information.

Sunflowers preschool conducts regular risk assessments on all aspects of the nursery operation and this area is no exception. The nursery has assessed all the risks relating to intimate care routines and has placed appropriate safeguards in place to ensure the safety of all involved.

If any parent or member of staff has concerns or questions about intimate care procedures or individual routines please speak to your child’s keyworker or the Angie Guy at the earliest opportunity.