



Partnership Achievement Community Excellence

Intimate Care Policy

Introduction

Chipstead Valley Academy Trust and Coulsdon Nursery are 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.

Definition

Intimate care is any care which involves washing, touching or carrying out an invasive 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. In cases of specific procedure, only staff suitably trained and assessed as competent should undertake the procedure, (e.g. the administration of rectal diazepam).

Our Approach to Best Practice

The management of all children with intimate care needs will be carefully planned. The child who requires intimate care is treated with respect at all times; the child's welfare and dignity is of paramount importance. Suitable equipment and facilities will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/occupational therapist. Wherever possible staff who are involved in the intimate care of children will not usually be involved with the delivery of sex education to the children in their care, as an additional safeguard to both staff and children involved. The child will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for himself/herself as he/she can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves. Individual

intimate care plans will be drawn up for particular children as appropriate to suit the circumstances of the child. Each child's right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child's situation to determine how many carers might need to be present when a child is toileted. Wherever possible, one child will be catered for by one adult, unless there is a sound reason for having more adults present. If this is the case, the reasons must be clearly documented.

Intimate care arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers on a regular basis and recorded on the child's care plan. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be taken into account wherever possible within the constraints of staffing and equal opportunities legislation.

The Protection of Children

Child Protection Procedures and Multi-Agency Child Protection procedures will be adhered to. All children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of ability, development and understanding. If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. s/he will immediately report concerns to the appropriate person/ designated person for child protection. If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution. Staffing schedules will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved so that the child's needs remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, all necessary procedures will be followed (see Multi - Agency Child Protection Procedures for details).