1.2a Intimate care

Policy Statement

At Private Montessori Nursery School, we believe that all children need contact with familiar, consistent carers to ensure they can grow and develop socially and emotionally. At times children need to be cuddled, encouraged, held and offered physical reassurance.

Intimate care routines are essential throughout the day to meet children's basic needs. This may include nappy changing, supporting children with toileting, changing clothes, and giving first aid treatment and specialist medical support where required.

To maintain each child's privacy and dignity, intimate care will be carried out on a one-to-one basis wherever possible by the child's key person, with the exception of first aid treatment which must be carried out by a qualified first aider.
In line with the EYFS changes effective from 1 September 2025, the Nursery School ensures that intimate care routines balance privacy, dignity and appropriate supervision, so that children feel safe and respected while staff remain visible and supported.

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

Our Commitments

- Promoting consistent and caring relationships through the key person system in the Nursery School and ensuring all parents understand how this works.
- Conducting working practice observations on all aspects of Nursery School operations to ensure that procedures are working in practice and all children are supported fully by the staff. This includes intimate care routines.
- Promoting consistent and caring relationships through the key person system in the Nursery School and ensuring all parents understand how this works.
- Ensuring all staff undertaking intimate care routines have suitable enhanced DBS checks
- Training all staff in the appropriate methods for intimate care routines and arranging specialist training where required, i.e. first aid training, specialist medical support
- Privacy, Dignity and Supervision (Updated wording for EYFS 2025).
- Ensuring children are afforded privacy and dignity during intimate care routines, in line with the strengthened EYFS requirements.
- Maintaining appropriate supervision at all times to safeguard both children and staff
- Ensuring that nappy changing and toileting do not take place behind fully closed doors; doors may be partially open or vision panels used so that staff remain visible while the child's dignity is protected.
- Ensuring that staff communicate with children respectfully during intimate care, explaining what they are doing and supporting the child's comfort and emotional wellbeing.
- Conducting thorough inductions for all new staff to ensure they are fully aware of all Nursery School procedures relating to intimate care routines.
- Following up procedures through supervision meetings and appraisals to identify any areas for development or further training.

- Working closely with parents on all aspects of the child's care and education as laid out in the Parent and Carers as Partners Policy. This is essential for intimate care routines which require specialist training or support. If a child requires specific support the Nursery School 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.
- Ensuring all staff have an up-to-date understanding of safeguarding/child protection and how to protect children from harm. This will include identifying signs and symptoms of abuse and how to raise these concerns as set out in the safeguarding/child protection policy.
- Operating a whistleblowing policy to help staff raise any concerns about their peers or managers; and helping staff develop confidence in raising worries as they arise in order to safeguard the children in the Nursery School.
- Conducting working practice observations on all aspects of Nursery School operations to ensure that procedures are working in practice and all children are supported fully by the staff. This includes intimate care routines.
- Conducting regular risk assessments on all aspects of the Nursery School operation including intimate care and reviewing the safeguards in place. The Nursery School 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 see the Nursery School manager at the earliest opportunity.

Change log		
This policy was changed on	**Signed on behalf of the nursery**	**Reason for change**
7/08/2020	Veronica van Ingen	Adoption of policy
26/10/2021	Veronica van Ingen	No changes, part of annual review
04/09/2025	Veronica van Ingen	EFYS standard change per 1 September 2025
23/01/2026	Veronica van Ingen	No changes