

09 Early years practice procedures

09.9 Prime times – Intimate care and nappy changing

Prime times of the day make the best of routine opportunities to promote ‘tuning-in’ to the child emotionally and to create opportunities for learning **while attending Cottontails Preschool**. Children’s privacy is maintained during nappy changing and toileting, whilst balanced with safeguarding considerations. Nappy changing times are key times in the day for being close and promoting security as well as for communication, exploration, and learning.

Young children, intimate care, and toileting

- Changing areas are warm, appropriately sited and there are safe areas to lay young children if they need to have their bottoms cleaned. There are mobiles or other objects of interest to take the child’s attention.
- If children refuse to lie down for nappy change, they can be changed whilst standing up, providing it is safe and still possible to clean them effectively.
- Each young child has his/her own bag to hand with their nappies/pull ups and changing wipes.
- All ensure that nappy changing is relaxed and a time to promote independence in young children.
- Young children are encouraged to take an interest in using the toilet; they may just want to sit on it and talk to a friend who is also using the toilet.
- They are encouraged to wash their hands and have soap and paper towels to hand. They should be allowed time for some play as they explore the water and the soap.
- Anti-bacterial hand wash liquid or soap should not be used by young children, as they are no more effective than ordinary soap and water.
- Key persons are gentle when changing and avoid pulling faces and making negative comment about the nappy contents.
- Wipes or water are used to clean the child. Where cultural practices involve children being washed and dried with towels, staff aim to make reasonable adjustments to achieve the desired results in consultation with the child’s parents/carers. Where this is not possible it is explained to parents/carers the reasons why. The use of wipes or water achieves the same outcome whilst reducing the risk of cross infection from items such as towels that are not ‘single use’ or disposable.
- Key persons do not make inappropriate comments about young children’s genitals when changing their nappies.

- Older children use the toilet when needed and are encouraged to be independent.
- Members of staffs do not wipe older children's bottoms unless there is a need, or unless the child has asked.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to provide enough changes of clothes for 'accidents when children are potty training.
- If young children are left in wet or soiled nappies/pull-ups in the setting, this may constitute neglect and will be a disciplinary matter.

Nappy changing is always done in an appropriate/designated area.