



## Intimate Care Policy

### Introduction

In Carnlough Community Nursery, the health, safety and welfare of our children are paramount. All staff responsible for the care of children in the nursery will undertake their duties in a professional manner and will ensure the child is treated with dignity and respect.

### Rationale

Staff will try to encourage children to do as much as possible for themselves, yet at times, help and assistance may be required from the nursery teacher or nursery assistant. If such occasions arise, a procedure must be followed carefully to protect the adult and child involved.

### What is intimate care?

Intimate care within the nursery can be defined as one of the following:

- ⇒ Supporting a pupil with dressing/undressing;
- ⇒ Providing comfort or support for a distressed child;
- ⇒ Assisting a child requiring first aid or medical attention;
- ⇒ Cleaning a child who has wet/soiled him/herself or has vomited;
- ⇒ Supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care.

Parents have a responsibility to inform nursery staff of any intimate care needs relating to their child.

### Parental Consent

At the beginning of the year, parents will be required to complete and sign a consent form to give permission for qualified nursery staff to assist their child with toileting, the changing of their clothes if wet/soiled and the administration of first aid should it be required. Parents will be informed if their child has had such assistance at the end of the nursery session.

### **Toileting Accident Procedure**

In the event of a toileting accident, the following procedure will be adopted:

- ⇒ Inform another member of staff that you need to help a child who has had a toileting accident;
- ⇒ Take the child to the children's bathroom and explain that you will help him/her to get cleaned up. Another nursery adult will stand close to the bathroom while the child is being attended to;
- ⇒ Disposable gloves will be worn by the adult and fragrance-free baby wipes will be used to wipe the child;
- ⇒ Explain to the child what you are doing throughout the wiping/changing process so that he/she does not feel uncomfortable;
- ⇒ The adult's gloves should be disposed of safely when the child has been wiped or changed;
- ⇒ The adult and the child will wash their hands and return to the main classroom;
- ⇒ Any surface areas affected by the accident will be cleaned and disinfected appropriately;
- ⇒ Wet/Soiled clothes will be double wrapped in plastic bags and will be handed to the collecting adult at the end of the session. Nursery adult will explain that the child needed assistance after a toileting accident;
- ⇒ The adult who assisted the child will complete information on the 'Changing/Toileting Procedure' sheet located in the children's bathroom.

### **Physical Contact**

Children will be encouraged to sit beside the adult during play or a story, rather than sit on the adult's lap. There may be occasions when a distressed child needs comfort and reassurance that may include physical touch such as a caring parent may give. Nursery staff must remain self-aware at all times to ensure their contact is not threatening or intrusive and not subject to misinterpretation.

If a child is distressed or upset and a nursery adult does provide comfort, the child's collecting adult will be informed at the end of the session. The nursery adult will write information about the incident in the diary at the end of the session.

It is important for nursery staff to be respectful of the needs and feelings of a child who requires intimate care in the nursery. The child's dignity will be preserved at all times.