

When providing intimate care, we will ensure that the child's safety, dignity and privacy are maintained at all times.

'Intimate care' covers any task that involves the washing, touching, or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas and is associated with bodily functions and personal hygiene, including, toileting, washing, dressing, and menstrual care.

Staff at Smartkidz Play and Learn Ltd who provide intimate care will do so in a professional manner. Staff are aware of safeguarding issues and will have relevant training where necessary, before providing intimate care. No child should suffer distress or pain as a result of receiving intimate care.

For children that have an identified keyworker, it is usual for the keyworker to support intimate care of the child that they have a key working relationship with.

Staff will work in partnership with parents or carers to provide care appropriate to the needs of the individual child and together will produce a care plan. The care plan will set out:

- What care is required
- Which staff will carry out the intimate care tasks.
- Number of staff needed to carry out the task (if more than 1 member of staff is required, reasons will be documented)
- Additional equipment required
- Child's preferred means of communication (e.g., verbal, visual)
- Child's level of ability – what tasks they are able to carry out by themselves

All intimate care given to a child will be logged in the intimate care log and will be signed by all staff members who gave intimate care to that child. Any concerns that staff have during this should be logged on a cause of concern form if a safeguarding concern or discussed with their line manager.

Best practice

When intimate care is given, the member of staff will explain to the child each task that is carried out, and the reasons for it. Staff will encourage children to do as much for themselves as they can.

If a child requires intimate care on a regular basis, it may be necessary for two members of staff to share the care between them. In this way the child is less likely to become overly dependent on a single member of staff, and to become distressed if their usual carer is occasionally unavailable. However, parents' views on the number of staff providing personal care to their child must also be taken into consideration - some children may simply be unable to cope with more than one carer or it may not be appropriate.

We have policies in place that promote safe recruitment, as well as having sound staff supervision, safeguarding and intimate care procedures; together these ensure that, should a child need consistent care from one member of staff, the child's safety and well-being will not be compromised.

Protecting children

Staff are familiar with guidance from the Local safeguarding partnership (formally the Local Safeguarding Children Board). The Club's procedures reflect the guidance in *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2023) and staff are familiar with the *What to Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused* flowchart from this document.

If a member of staff is concerned about any physical changes to a child, such as marks, bruises, soreness etc, they will inform the Club's designated child protection officer immediately. The procedures set out in the **Safeguarding Children** policy will be implemented.

Should a child become unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the management team will investigate and record any findings. These will be discussed with the child's parents or carers in order to resolve the issue. If necessary, the manager will seek advice from outside agencies.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the procedure set out in the **Safeguarding Children** policy will be followed.

Dealing with blood and body fluids

Blood, vomit, urine, and faeces will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of safely, by double bagging the waste and removing it from the premises. When they are dealing with body fluids, staff will wear personal protective clothing (disposable plastic gloves and aprons) and will wash themselves thoroughly afterwards. Soiled children's clothing will be bagged to go home – staff will not rinse it.

Children will be kept away from the affected area until the incident has been dealt with fully. Staff will do their best to clean the child up however, If the staff feel that the hygiene level of the child is not sufficient with the facilities the setting has to complete the tasks the **play leader** may decide that the child needs picking up by a parent or carer to be cleaned up, the child can then return to club afterwards if needs be.

Staff at Smartkidz Play and Learn will maintain high standards of personal hygiene and will take all practicable steps to prevent and control the spread of infection.

This policy was adopted by: Smartkidz Play and Learn	Date: 25/01/2024
To be reviewed: 25/01/2025	Signed: 

Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2024): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Safeguarding policies and procedures [3.6] and Concerns about children's safety and welfare [3.8], Suitable people [3.10], Health [3.53] and Toilets and intimate hygiene [3.72]