



MARTENSCROFT

NURSERY SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Title: Toileting and Intimate Care Policy



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INTRODUCTION

At Martenscroft Nursery School and Children's Centres, all children have the right to be safe and be treated with dignity, respect and privacy at all times.

All children need contact with familiar, consistent carers to ensure they can grow and develop socially and emotionally. Children need to feel safe, secure and happy so we expect practitioners to be responsive to children's needs, whilst maintaining professionalism. We accept that children need to be cuddled, encouraged, held and offered physical reassurance, and ensure intimate care routines are undertaken in a safe, respectful and child-centred way. Intimate care routines may include nappy changing, supporting children with toileting, changing clothes, and giving first aid treatment and specialist medical support, where required. In order to maintain the child's privacy, we will carry out the majority of these actions on a one-to-one basis and, wherever possible, by the child's key person. First aid treatment will be carried out by a qualified paediatric first aider.

This policy sets out clear principles and guidelines on supporting intimate care with specific reference to toileting. It should be considered in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education, Working Together to Safeguard Children, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Health and Safety Policies, SEND Policy and Procedures, Administering of Medicines Policy and our changing procedures.

BEST PRACTICE

When intimate care is given, the member of staff explains fully each task that is carried out, and the reason for it. Staff encourage children to do as much for themselves as they can, lots of praise and encouragement will be given to the child when they achieve.



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SAFEGUARDING

All staff working at Martenscroft must have a DBS and meet safer recruitment checks. Staff are trained on the signs and symptom of child abuse. If a member of staff is concerned about any physical or emotional changes, such as marks, bruises, soreness, distress etc they will inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately. The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will then be implemented.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS

If your child has additional needs or they are uncooperative with intimate care they may require a care plan. This plan will be written and agreed with parents in advance. If a child refuses to be changed, staff may in extreme cases call parents or carers to come in to help their child. The decision to call parents or carers to support their child in intimate care is at the discretion of a member of the senior leadership team.

TOILETING AND NAPPY CHANGING

We have designated hygienic changing areas that are age appropriate. All changing areas are in sight and sound of other adults, where windows are not present then doors are propped open enough to protect the dignity of the child while safeguarding the adult and the child. Changing procedures will be carried out in the children's toilet area or one of the changing rooms. When carrying out procedures, the nursery will provide staff with: aprons, gloves cleaning supplies, changing stations, bins for pupils needing routine intimate care. The nursery expects parents/carers to provide necessary resources, such as nappies, underwear and/or a spare set of clothing in their bag which they bring to school daily. Any soiled clothing will be contained securely, clearly labelled and discreetly returned to parents/carers at the end of the day.



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How We Will Support Toilet Training

There is no set age at which a child is ready for toilet training, but most children gain the skills they need to start training between the age of 18 months and 3 years old.

Some of the signs that a child is ready to toilet train:

- They show an interest in the bathroom.
- They show a desire for independence.
- They are able to follow simple instructions and requests such as: "Do you need a wee?" or "Where's the toilet?"
- They have a dry nappy for 2 hours or more at a time.
- They show signs of discomfort when their nappy is wet or soiled.
- They show awareness that they are having a wee or poo
- They can pull their own trousers up and down with very little help
- They may even begin to tell you that they need a wee or a poo before they do it.

Some children may only take a few days to train where as others may take weeks or even months, especially when it comes to completing night time training.

Children are all different therefore you need to:

- Let your child set their own pace and get use to the new process step by step.
- Stimulate your child's interest with stories, songs and encouragement.
- Remain positive, your child is learning a new skill and they need your support.



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Toilet training should always begin at home first. We ask parents to work in partnership with us by sharing with your child's keyworker how it's going at home. If you have not begun to train your child by 2.5 years old your child's key worker will meet with you to support you in starting the process. Although, some children may not be ready due to special educational needs or a disability. Once your child starts toilet training we will provide parents with a supportive Toilet Training leaflet, created by our Children's Centres Team, to provide parents with more details on how to approach the toilet training phase. Key Workers will follow the parents lead and introduce toilet training in Nursery when it is appropriate to do so. We often find that children have more accidents in Nursery as the environment is much busier and they often get distracted, this is expected during the toilet training phase and our staff are skilled in supporting children.

During the Summer Term, we will also hold a toilet training session in preparation for any children moving into our Nursery Class or another school's Nursery Class. The Department for Education and Manchester Local Authority's expectations are that children are toilet trained upon entering the Nursery Class. We hold the same expectation for the children entering our Nursery Class unless a child has a special educational need or a medical need. This meeting provides the opportunity to share useful advice and guidance so we can support in the best way possible.

When toilet training commences, we always ask parents to provide plenty of spare clothes, children are very likely to have accidents throughout the day. Do not worry if your child has more accidents at nursery than at home, they will need time, encouragement and lots of reassurance until they are fully trained.

Conclusion

We recognise that toilet training and intimate care provided by staff can be a challenging and sometimes emotional time for both children and their parents. By working in close partnership with families, we can provide consistent support, reassurance, and encouragement to help children develop confidence and

independence in a respectful and caring environment. Our staff are trained to carry out all intimate care routines with professionalism, sensitivity, and in line with safeguarding best practices. Together, through open communication and mutual understanding, we can support each child through this important developmental stage. This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains appropriate and effective.