

# BARTON KIDS CLUB



## Intimate Care

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene, which demand direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of the genitals or supervision of children involved in intimate self-care. Examples include care associated with toileting or menstrual care.

Due to the age profile of the children attending Kids Club, it is generally accepted that regular help with intimate care is not necessary. Children can usually take care of their own toileting needs and girls typically have not yet reached puberty - if they have they are usually able to take care of their own personal hygiene.

We recognize that there may be occasions where a child needs help with their intimate self-care. For example, they have “had an accident” and wet or soiled themselves. In such cases, staff will encourage children to do as much for themselves as they can. Children’s dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Staff are given the choice as to whether they help with intimate self-care and those who do have a high awareness of child safeguarding issues.

Kids Club is committed to ensuring that all staff who help with intimate self-care for children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect when helping with intimate self-care. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Parents/carers will be informed when a child has required help with their intimate self-care.

### Our approach to best practice

Children who require help with their intimate self-care are treated respectfully at all times, the child’s welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

As a basic principle, children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible, given their age and abilities. Staff will encourage each child to do as much for themselves as they can. Each child’s right to privacy will be respected.

Wherever possible, the same child will not be helped by the same adult on a regular basis. This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing.

If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child’s presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc., they will immediately report concerns to the safeguarding lead. A clear record of the concern will be completed and referred on if necessary. (See Safeguarding Children policy).

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being helped by a particular member of staff, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents/carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process, in order to reach a resolution. The child’s needs will remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.

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| This policy was adopted by: Barton Kids Club | Date: June 2021               |
| To be reviewed: 2022                         | Signed: Linda Hoenes, Manager |