



Intimate Care Policy

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

In intimate care situations, the child's safety, dignity and privacy are of paramount importance. Children requiring intimate care will be treated respectfully at all times.

Staff employed by TJ's Club (Hampshire) Ltd who provide intimate care will do so in a professional manner. Staff are aware of safeguarding issues and will have relevant training (eg: health and safety, child protection, manual handling) before providing intimate care. No child should suffer distress or pain as a result of receiving intimate care.

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
- Number of staff needed to carry out the task (if more than one person is required, reasons will be documented)
- Additional equipment required
- Child's preferred means of communication (eg verbal, visual)
- Child's level of ability - what tasks they are able to carry out by themselves

Best practice

When intimate care is given, the member of staff will explain fully 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 is a good idea for two members of staff to share the care between them. In this way, the child should not become overly dependent on a single member of staff, and is less likely 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.

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 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 management immediately. The **Safeguarding (Child protection)** policy will then be implemented.

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

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff, the procedure set out in the **Safeguarding (Child Protection) 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 at TJ's Club (Hampshire) Ltd 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: TJ's Club (Hampshire) Ltd	Date: October 2024
Signed: J Little	To be reviewed: October 2025

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2024): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Child protection [3.4-3.8] and Suitable people [3.9-3.15]*.