

Intimate 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 and never experience distress or pain as a result.

What is intimate care?

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.

Prior to intimate care

Any FACEvents staff member that is required to provide intimate care will be aware of any safeguarding issues and be trained appropriately in health & safety, child protection and manual handling.

FACEvents will work in partnership with the child's parents/carers to ensure the appropriate level of care is provided and the needs of the child are met- together a care plan will be created including the following:

- What care is required
 - Number of staff needed to carry out the task
 - Any additional equipment required
 - Child's preferred means of communication (eg verbal, visual)
- Child's level of ability, stating what tasks they are able to carry out themselves

Best Practice

When intimate care is given, the staff member will fully explain what is being done and why- encouraging children to do as much as they are able for themselves.

Where possible, two members of staff will be present- this is for the protection of both the child and the staff members; this also ensures the child does not become overly dependent on a single member of staff. However, on occasions where only one member of staff is available, the child's care needs should not be compromised, due to the policies in place around safer recruitment, regular supervisions and ongoing safeguard training/refreshers.

Staff providing intimate care will be provided with personal protection items such as disposable plastic gloves and aprons where necessary.

Dealing with blood and bodily fluids

Any blood, vomit, urine and faeces will be cleaned up and disposed of immediately. Staff will wear the appropriate protective clothing when dealing with bodily fluids and children will be kept away from the affected area until it has been cleaned and disinfected.

If children need to change their clothing, they will be encouraged to do so themselves; where assistance is needed, there will be two staff members present as above. If the child does not have any spare clothes, we will attempt to supply some from the lost property, if this is not available we will phone the parent/carer to supply some.

If the child has soiled themselves and requires assistance to be cleaned, staff will do the minimum required, with two staff members present.

The child's clothes will be placed in a bag and sent home- staff will not rinse or clean them.