Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment

Providers must ensure there are suitable hygienic changing facilities for changing any children who are in nappies.

3.6 Nappy changing

Policy statement

No child is excluded from participating in our setting because they are not yet toilet trained, are wearing nappies or pull-ups, or need support with intimate care. We work in partnership with parents and carers towards toilet training, unless there are medical, developmental or other individual reasons why this is not appropriate at the time.

We provide suitable, safe and hygienic nappy changing and toileting facilities. We follow the current Early Years Foundation Stage safeguarding and welfare requirements, including the requirement to balance children's privacy and dignity with appropriate safeguarding supervision during nappy changing, toileting and other intimate care routines.

We see toilet training as a self-care skill that children have the opportunity to learn with the full support and non-judgemental concern of adults.

Procedures

- We have a rota for nappy changing in both rooms. Nappy changing and intimate care are carried out only by staff who have completed the setting's suitability checks, including an enhanced DBS check where required, and who have received relevant safeguarding, hygiene and intimate care guidance. Staff deployment ensures children are supervised safely while maintaining their privacy and dignity.
- Babies and young children are changed in the toilet area in line with our safeguarding, intimate care and lone working procedures. Staff protect each child's dignity and privacy while ensuring they are not placed at risk through isolation or lack of appropriate supervision. Where privacy is needed, staff use positioning, screens or their own body as a shield while remaining accountable and visible in line with safeguarding practice.
- Our changing area is warm, with a safe area to lay children and no bright lights shining down in their eyes. There are mobiles and other objects of interest to take the child's attention if needed, and all staff know distraction techniques if needed.
- All parents are asked to bring in a sleeve of nappies to be kept at Stowey Bears, we will then put them into named allocated baskets and liaise with parents when we are running low.
- Staff wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including disposable gloves and aprons, when changing nappies or dealing with bodily fluids. Staff wash their hands before and after every nappy change, dispose of PPE safely, and clean the changing surface and surrounding area after each use in line with infection prevention procedures.
- All staff are familiar with and follow our hygiene, infection control, safeguarding and intimate care procedures when changing nappies or supporting toileting.
- Our staff never turn their back on a child or leave them unattended whilst they are on the changing mat.

- We are gentle when changing; we avoid pulling faces and making negative comments about 'nappy contents'.
- We do not make inappropriate comments about children's genitals when changing their nappies.
- Staff report any safeguarding concern, unexplained mark, disclosure, injury, soreness or recurring hygiene concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with the setting's safeguarding procedures. Concerns are recorded promptly, shared only with those who need to know, and referred to external agencies where required.
- Staff record nappy changes, toileting accidents and any relevant care information in the setting's agreed system. Parents and carers are informed sensitively about changes, supplies needed, health concerns or toilet training progress.
- In addition, we ensure that nappy changing is relaxed and a time to promote independence in young children.
- We encourage children to take an interest in using the toilet; they may just want to sit on it and talk to a friend who is also using the toilet.
- We encourage children to wash their hands after toileting and nappy changing support. Soap, water and suitable hand-drying facilities are available, and staff supervise and support children in a calm, developmentally appropriate way.
- We use suitable handwashing products for young children and avoid harsh products that may irritate skin. Where a child has a known allergy, sensitivity or medical need, this is recorded and staff follow the child's individual care plan.
- Older children access the toilet when they have the need to and are encouraged to be independent.
- We dispose of nappies and pull-ups hygienically. Soiled nappies and pull-ups are bagged and placed in the designated nappy bin, which is emptied at least daily and disposed of through the appropriate waste arrangements. Cloth nappies, trainer pants and ordinary pants that are wet or soiled are bagged securely for parents and carers to take home, unless otherwise agreed in an individual care plan.
- Where a child has additional medical, developmental or personal care needs, we agree an individual care plan with parents and carers and, where appropriate, relevant health professionals. This plan sets out the child's needs, preferred routines, privacy considerations, products to be used and any training staff require.
- We have a 'duty of care' towards children's personal needs. If children are left in wet or soiled nappies/pull ups in the setting this may constitute neglect and will be a disciplinary matter.

This policy was adopted by	Stowey Bears Preschool	*(name of provider)*
On		*(date)*
Date to be reviewed	Reviewed annually or sooner following legislative, EYFS or safeguarding guidance changes	*(date)*
Signed on behalf of the provider	*Rachel Penny*	
Name of signatory	Julia Jameson	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	Chairperson	