

Nappy Changing and Toileting Policy

Aim

Playhouse Pre-School is committed to supporting every child's personal care, health, wellbeing and developing independence.

We recognise that children develop toileting skills at different rates. Some children will still be wearing nappies when they start Pre-School, particularly our younger children aged 9 months to 2 years. We will never make a child feel embarrassed, ashamed or pressured because they are wearing nappies or having toileting accidents.

We work in partnership with parents and carers and follow current advice from ERIC, The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity, alongside current EYFS and health protection guidance.

ERIC advises that children can begin learning potty skills from an early age and that stopping nappies between 18 and 30 months can support healthy bladder and bowel development. However, each child's development and circumstances are individual.

Partnership with Parents and Carers

Parents and carers should:

- provide sufficient nappies, wipes and spare clothing for each session;
- provide clearly labelled individual nappy cream where required, with appropriate permission recorded through eyLog;
- inform the setting of any relevant medical, dietary, bowel, bladder or toileting concerns;
- tell the key person when they would like to begin toilet training;
- work with staff to agree a consistent and positive approach between home and Pre-School;
- provide comfortable clothing that is easy for the child to remove when toilet training;
- provide spare underwear and clothing during toilet training;
- share any advice from health visitors, GPs, continence nurses or other professionals where this is relevant to the child's care.

Parents should not feel that their child must be fully toilet trained before attending Playhouse Pre-School.

Nappy Changing

Playhouse Pre-School will:

- provide a suitable, hygienic and safe area for nappy changing;
- change children whenever they are wet or soiled and when required for their comfort and wellbeing;
- respect children's privacy while ensuring appropriate safeguarding and supervision;
- use staff who are appropriately checked and authorised to work with children;
- ensure staff follow the setting's safeguarding and intimate-care procedures;
- use the child's own nappies and wipes;
- use only individually labelled creams or lotions provided for that child;
- record the application of prescribed or agreed creams in accordance with the setting's medication procedures;
- never leave a child unattended on a changing surface;

Nappy Changing and Toileting Policy

- communicate with parents where there are repeated problems, unusual changes or concerns about a child's skin, bowel or bladder health.

Staff will talk to children calmly and respectfully during personal care and encourage them to participate in their care as appropriate to their age and development.

Hygiene and Infection Control

Staff will follow current infection-control guidance when changing nappies or supporting toileting. Staff will:

- wash and dry their hands thoroughly with soap and water after every nappy change and before handling another child;
- wear disposable gloves and a disposable apron when appropriate, particularly where there is contact with faeces, urine, blood or other bodily fluids;
- change gloves and aprons between children;
- dispose of used nappies safely and appropriately;
- clean the changing mat after every use;
- keep changing equipment clean and in good condition;
- ensure cleaning materials are stored safely away from children.

Used nappies will be placed in the appropriate waste bin in accordance with the setting's waste arrangements. Soiled nappies will be securely wrapped before disposal.

Nappy Creams and Lotions

Only creams or lotions provided specifically for an individual child may be used.

Products must:

- be clearly labelled with the child's name;
- be stored safely;
- not be shared between children;
- have the appropriate parental permission;
- be applied according to the manufacturer's instructions and any agreed care plan.

Staff will record applications where required by the setting's medication procedures.

Toilet Training

Playhouse Pre-School will support toilet training as a gradual learning process.

We will:

- work with parents to agree a consistent approach;
- encourage children to become familiar with the toilet or potty;
- give children regular opportunities to practise;
- encourage children to recognise and respond to their own bladder and bowel needs;
- allow children sufficient time and support when using the toilet;
- encourage children to manage clothing, wiping and handwashing as they become able;
- use positive encouragement and praise;
- remain calm and reassuring when accidents happen;
- never shame, punish or pressure a child for accidents.

Children do not need to be completely independent before moving from the Caterpillar Room to the Butterfly Room or before attending Playhouse Pre-School.

Potties

Where a potty is used:

- the child will be given appropriate privacy while remaining safely supervised;
- the potty will be emptied into the toilet;
- staff will wear disposable gloves when emptying and cleaning a potty;
- the potty will be cleaned after use;
- potties will be stored appropriately;
- hands will be washed thoroughly after cleaning the potty.

Accidents and Soiling

Toileting accidents are a normal part of learning.

If a child has an accident, staff will:

- remain calm and reassuring;
- support the child to clean themselves as independently as possible;
- provide assistance with personal care when required;
- provide clean clothing where necessary;
- place wet or soiled clothing in a sealed, named bag for parents to take home;
- clean and disinfect any contaminated surfaces appropriately;
- wash their hands thoroughly after providing care.

Children will never be punished, shamed or made to feel embarrassed because of an accident. If a child is regularly soiling, withholding urine or stools, experiencing pain, has blood in their stool or shows other signs of a possible bowel or bladder problem, staff will discuss the concern with parents and recommend that appropriate professional advice is sought.

Constipation and soiling can occur during toilet training and should not be assumed to be deliberate behaviour. NHS guidance recommends seeking medical advice where constipation is suspected.

Additional Needs and Individual Care

We recognise that some children may need additional support with toileting because of:

- developmental differences;
- SEND;
- physical disabilities;
- medical conditions;
- constipation or other bowel or bladder difficulties;
- anxiety or previous negative experiences;
- delayed development or other individual circumstances.

Where additional support is needed, we will work with parents and relevant professionals to develop an appropriate approach or individual care plan.

Children will be supported to develop independence at their own pace.

Privacy and Safeguarding

Children's privacy will always be respected during nappy changing and toileting while ensuring appropriate safeguarding.

Nappy Changing and Toileting Policy

Staff will:

- maintain professional boundaries;
- provide only the level of assistance the child requires;
- explain what they are doing in an age-appropriate way;
- encourage children to participate in their own personal care;
- never photograph or record children during toileting or nappy changing;
- report any safeguarding concern in accordance with the Safeguarding Children Policy.

The current EYFS requires providers to consider children's privacy while balancing this with safeguarding and support needs when changing nappies and supporting toileting.

Concerns About a Child

Staff will inform the Manager/Designated Safeguarding Lead if they have concerns about:

- unexplained injuries or marks;
- repeated unexplained soiling;
- significant changes in toileting behaviour;
- a child appearing distressed or fearful during personal care;
- inappropriate behaviour or comments;
- any other concern relating to a child's welfare or safety.

Safeguarding concerns will be managed in accordance with the Safeguarding Children Policy.

This policy was agreed by the staff of Playhouse Pre-School Broadwater.

Adopted on 5th October 2018 and will be reviewed annually.

Reviewed on 30th September 2026 by Z. Munford