



Making the difference

Intimate Care Policy



INTIMATE CARE POLICY

The issue of intimate care is a sensitive one and requires staff to be respectful of each individual child's needs. The child's dignity should always be preserved with a high level of privacy, choice and control.

Child protection policies and related issues are very important and are there to protect, not only the children, but also the staff. Children, particularly those with learning difficulties, sensory impairment and physical difficulties can be vulnerable (please read the Vbranch House Child Protection Policy).

Vbranch House staff work in a position of trust and responsibility. Volunteers and students should not be involved in intimate care when a child needs body privacy.

Definition of Intimate Care

Intimate care can be defined as any activity related to meet personal care needs i.e.

- Feeding – including gastrostomy feeding.
- Oral care.
- Undressing/dressing.
- Toilet and nappy changing.
- Menstrual care.
- Treatments such as suppositories or rectal medicines.
- Catheter or stoma care.
- Supervision of children while toilet training.

Principles of good practice are:

All staff to be aware of and follow guidelines in this policy. Vbranch House children are individuals who have special needs and requirements.

Appropriate protective equipment must be worn by staff i.e. gloves and aprons (see hygiene policy) and changing areas must be cleaned.

All staff involved in intimate care must strive to protect the child's privacy and dignity. Also be mindful of the individual's particular needs, capabilities and how they communicate.

Speak to the child using their name. Explain what it is you are going to do or help them with. Let them respond or help as much as they are able.

Staff should be trained up and supervised by a senior member of staff. Anything unusual or other difficulties should be discussed with the school nurse immediately.

If any staff member has concerns with a colleague's intimate care patterns they **MUST** report this to the school nurse or head teacher immediately.

