

Amble First School



Guidance on Intimate Care of Children

Amble First School is committed to promoting inclusion for all children.

We recognise that every child is an individual and, therefore, will have a unique development pattern.

Toilet training is a developmental stage that may create anxiety for the child and their parents and carers. Some children will be out of nappies between the ages of two and three, for others it may be later and, for some children, it may never happen. The term 'toilet training' suggests that children can somehow be taught to have control over their bladder and bowels, but actually bladder and bowel control is largely dependent on a child's nervous system.

Staff should support and reassure parents and carers that their child will be welcomed into the group. Parents and carers should never feel under pressure to have their child toilet trained before they can be accepted into an early years setting. It may leave them feeling anxious or inadequate.

The following guidelines should be followed by all staff.

- Staff aim to encourage young children to become independent at toilet time. However, this is a learning process where staff will need to give help and assistance as and when appropriate e.g. if struggling with fasteners etc.
- Staff members need to respond positively, to give practical and emotional support to children to enable them to develop their self-help skills towards independence
- Children may ask for or require assistance to adjust and remove their own clothing when going to the toilet. Children will be encouraged to perform this task independently when appropriate.
- Children may ask for or require assistance to wipe their bottoms. Children will be encouraged to perform this task independently when appropriate
- Children may close cubicle doors themselves for privacy. Staff would be advised to leave the door open if they enter a toilet cubicle to assist a child whilst respecting the child's need for privacy and dignity

- Nappy changing is an opportunity for a one to one relationship between the adult and the child. It should be a positive experience with eye-to-eye contact and conversation taking place.
- All children will be changed in a discreet area with all of the necessary equipment to hand i.e. changing mat, protective gloves, wipes, clean nappies, change of clothes etc.
- Children will only be changed by a fully CRB checked member of staff. Volunteers shall not be allowed to carry out this task.
- Cultural and religious needs will be taken into account at all times. Parents should inform staff of any particular needs.
- Staff will inform other members of staff when intimate care is necessary.
- Children will be changed in privacy and treated with respect
- Staff shall reassure children who need to be changed and help them to remain relaxed, comfortable and safe.
- Children shall never be left unattended in the changing area.
- Only creams supplied by the child's parents/carers will be applied
- Staff will wear a fresh pair of disposable gloves when changing each child
- Changing surfaces shall be disinfected after each change and health and safety regarded at all times
- All changes of nappies or clothing shall be recorded and stored confidentially. An example copy of a record can be found in appendix 2.

JA Jenkins
April 2009

Agreed by Sheila Little, on behalf of the Governing Body, April 2009

**Reviewed by Joyce Jenkins/Simon Baxter..... on behalf of
the Governing Body, September 2016**

NORTHUMBERLAND CHILDRENS SERVICE'S

GUIDANCE ON INTIMATE CARE

Lack of toilet training should not be a barrier for children attending early years settings.

The Disability Discrimination Act makes specific requirements regarding children with disabilities/additional needs, which has implications for our practice for all children.

The Disability Discrimination Act makes it clear that:

- If a child cannot be toilet trained in time for playgroup/nursery because of a disability/additional need, the setting has a duty to look into the situation and consider how they can make 'reasonable adjustments' to enable the child to attend. This means they have to think about what can be done within the setting to allow the child to be changed when necessary and for a toilet training programme to be supported as and when appropriate.
- The setting also has a legal duty to anticipate adjustments to accommodate disabilities/additional needs and not simply to respond to them on arrival.
- There must be no 'blanket policies' in any setting. For example, "We don't take children unless they are toilet trained/we don't take children in nappies".

Settings must anticipate having to make 'reasonable adjustments' to meet the needs of all children with disabilities/additional needs who may come into the setting in the future. The setting may make a decision regarding reasonable adjustments in consultation with the responsible body for that setting - governing body, LA, voluntary, private, independent group etc. Any decision about how reasonable adjustments are due to cost, health and safety or resource issues should be taken in the light of the Disability Discrimination Act. **There would have to be 'material and substantial' reasons not to make these adjustments.** Parents wanting their child to be educated in the setting would have the right to challenge this decision through the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDAT).

Appendix 2

TOILET TRAINING/CHANGING PLAN

Child's Name _____

D.O.B _____

Name of Adult _____

Date	Time	Code	Adult Signature	Comment

TP=Tried Potty Toilet TT=Tried Toilet UP=Used Potty UT=Used Toilet

WP=Wet Pants Bottom S=Sore AC=Applied Cream WB=Wipe

SP=Soiled Pants