



## **Intimate Care Policy**

The provision of personal, intimate care is not routine in Oxford Active settings as most children are aged four and above and do not need it. But the need for intimate care does occur from time to time when children may wet or soil themselves.

Wherever possible, staff permit and promote the greatest level of self-care and independence for each child, but this guidance is intended where extra care or support is needed.

- Staff who are designated to carry out this work should be properly trained and receive appropriate guidance
- Children may be embarrassed or upset by the need for intimate care and it should be provided sensitively and discreetly
- Where possible the child should consent and their preferences for who should provide care should be taken into account
- Gender, religious and cultural issues should be taken into account
- Personal care should always be provided in an appropriate areas so that the child is given privacy
- Staff should carefully consider the balance between the child's physical requirements and his/her right to privacy with the potential vulnerability of the staff member attending to his/her needs. For example, it may be appropriate to have a second member of staff in close proximity.
- Staff should encourage children to attend to their own needs wherever possible and it is safe to do so. It may be possible to provide supervision and guidance, intervening only where necessary or if the child asks for help.