

Achieving continence is a key developmental milestone usually reached before a child starts primary school in the Nursery. At Bigland Green we expect that a child starting in the Nursery will be toilet trained before they start in a nursery class<sup>1</sup>. They should also be able to initiate requests and have conversations with others.

In some cases, this development may be delayed and be affected by factors that are beyond the control of parents/carers. In which case, the school will need to be provided with an explanation letter from the relevant medical professional.

## **Definition of disability in the Equality Act 2010**

The law provides protection for anyone who has a physical, sensory or mental impairment that has an adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. The effect must be substantial and long-term.

Delayed continence is not necessarily linked with learning difficulties. However, children with global developmental delay are likely to be late coming out of nappies. The school has a duty to meet the needs of children with delayed personal development in the same way that children's needs for delayed language or any other kind of delayed development.

Asking parents/carers of a child with particular medical condition and/or learning needs to come and change a child is likely to be a direct contravention of the Equality Act 2010, and leaving a child in a soiled nappy or pants for any length of time is a form of abuse.

## **Procedures and issues of child protection**

In the event of a child wetting/soiling themselves a familiar adult (e.g. TA/LSA or Nursery Officer) will change the child. Soiled clothing will be double bagged and returned to the parent/carer at the end of the day. Staff will wear disposable gloves. If the child is distressed then all attempts will be made to settle the child. If all else fails, then the parent/carer will be contacted. If at any time a staff member is concerned about any marks/injuries whilst changing a child then the headteacher or an SLT member will be informed.

The normal process of changing a child should not raise child protection concerns, and there are no regulations that indicate that a second member of staff must be available to supervise the nappy changing process. All staff members at Bigland Green are DBS checked and are suitable to work with children. If there is a known risk of false allegation by a child then a staff member should not undertake changing a child on their own. A student on placement should not change a child unsupervised.

If a child soils themselves they will be changed in the shower room in the EYFS or the medical room next to the school office. The EY shower room and the disabled toilet have changing facilities with a supply of disposable plastic aprons and gloves.

If a child is incontinent then the school will set up an agreement defining the responsibilities parents and staff members, and the expectations each has for the other. This process will be managed by the SENCo or the Team Leader once a request has been received from a classteacher.

<sup>1</sup> Starting Nursery in Tower Hamlets 2019, page 12  
[https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/TH\\_NurserySch\\_prospectus\\_2019\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/TH_NurserySch_prospectus_2019_WEB.pdf)

## Implementation of the policy

In the case that a child accidentally wets/soils themselves or is sick the following procedures will take place:

- Children should be changed as soon as necessary by the staff who are working with them. Children should never be left unattended in the changing area.
- The child will be changed in privacy and treated with respect with due regards to cultural sensitivities related to aspects of intimate care.
- The child will be addressed by their names and spoken to in age appropriate way. Terminology for parts of the body and bodily functions to be used will be agreed in teams.
- The child will be reassured and helped to remain relaxed, comfortable and safe.
- The child will be given strong clues that enable them to anticipate and prepare for events e.g. show the clean nappy/pad to indicate the intention to change, or the sponge/flannel for washing.
- The child will be encouraged to undertake as much of the procedure for themselves as possible, including washing intimate areas and dressing/undressing. The child's permission will be sought before undressing if they are unable to do this unaided.
- Only creams supplied by the parent/carer should be applied.
- Staff will wear a fresh pair of disposable gloves and an apron when changing children. The changing surfaces will be disinfected after each change.
- Hot water and liquid soap are available to wash hands as soon as the task is completed. Paper towels are available for drying hands.
- Staff will keep records noting responses to intimate care and any changes in behaviour.

## Responsibilities of the parents/carers

Ensure their child is toilet trained before starting school unless there are underlying conditions. Alert staff if the child is not well and/or has had changes in their routines for going to the toilet.

Ensure that the child is changed at the latest possible time before being brought to school, and

- provide school with spare nappies (if required) and a change of clothes;
- understand and agree to the procedures that will be followed when their child is changed at school;
- inform the school should the child have any marks/rash;
- agree to a 'minimum change' policy i.e. school would not undertake to change the child more frequently than if they were at home, and;
- contribute to the review of arrangements should this be necessary.

## The school's responsibilities

- change the child if they soil themselves or become uncomfortably wet;
- monitor the number of times the child is changed in order to identify progress made;
- report to parents if the child is distressed, or if marks/rashes are seen on the child, and;
- review arrangements should this be necessary.

Date approved	Signature	Review date
January 2019		As required