**Intimate Care Policy**

Branston Little Pickles Pre-School aims to support children's care and welfare daily, in line with their individual needs. All children need contact with familiar, consistent carers to ensure they can grow confidently and feel self-assured. At times children need to be cuddled, encouraged, held, and offered physical reassurance.

Intimate care routines are essential throughout the day to ensure children's basic needs are met. This may include nappy changing, supporting children with toileting, changing clothes where required, first aid treatment and specialist medical support.

In order to maintain the child's privacy, the majority of these actions will take place on a one-to-one basis and wherever possible will be supported by the child's keyworker, with the exception of the first aid treatment that will be conducted by a qualified first aider.

We wish to ensure the safety and welfare of the children involved in intimate care routines and safeguard against any potential harm as well as ensuring the staff member involved is fully supported and able to perform their duties safely and confidently. Through the following actions we will endeavour to support all parties:

* Promote consistent and caring relationships through the key person system in the Pre-school
* Ensure all staff undertaking intimate care routines have suitable enhanced DBS check
* Train all staff in the appropriate methods for intimate care routines and access specialist training where required, i.e. first aid training, specialist medical support
* Conduct thorough inductions for all new staff to ensure they are fully aware of all Pre-School procedures relating to intimate care routines
* Follow up on these procedures through supervision meetings and appraisals to identify any areas for development or further training
* Working closely with parents on all aspects of the child's care and education as laid out in the parent and carers as partners policy. This is essential for intimate care routines which require specialist training or support. If a child requires specific support the Pre-School will arrange a meeting with the parent to discover all the relevant information relating to this to enable the staff to care for the child fully and meet their individual needs
* Ensure all staff have an up-to-date understanding of safeguarding and how to protect children from harm. This will include identifying signs and symptoms of abuse and how to raise these concerns in the most appropriate and speedy manner
* The setting operates a whistleblowing policy as a means for staff to raise concerns relating to their peers. The management will support this by ensuring staff feel confident in raising worries as they arise in order to safeguard the children in the Pre- School
* The management team regularly conducts working practice observations on all aspects of Pre-School operations to ensure that procedures are working in practice and all children are supported fully by the staff. This includes intimate care routines
* The Pre-School conducts regular risk assessments on all aspects of the Pre-School’s operation and this area is no exception. The Pre-School has assessed all the risks relating to intimate care routines and has placed appropriate safeguards in place to ensure the safety of all involved.
* Staff will be advised on how to use physical interventions by the behaviour management lead and the pre-school manager, if physical intervention is required e.g. if a child is likely to hurt themselves or others. Please refer to the pre-school’s behaviour management policy for further information.

This policy has been adopted by Big Pickles Before and After school club

Signed on behalf of the setting by:

Holly Murphy (Chairperson) Date: ………February 2023

Jodie Cook (Manager) Date:…February 2023………………………….

Review Date: February 2024