**Caring for Children over Two**

| EYFS: 3.1-3.3, 3.27, 3.32, 3.34, 3.48, 3.49, 3.55-3.58, 3.69, 3.70, 3.74. |
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At Ashridge day nursery we care for Preschoolers and Children over the age of two, as well as babies and toddlers.

We ensure their health, safety and well-being through the following:

* Implementing the EYFS requirements at all times
* Allocating each child with a key person and working in partnership with their parent/carers to meet their individual needs and routines
* Having well qualified staff that understand the needs of children
* Children transitioning to the older age groups/rooms when assessed as appropriate for their age/stage
* Staff supervising the children at all times and organising the environment to support all of their needs
* Sharing updates on children's development with other settings they attend

**Environment**

* The environment, equipment and resources are risk assessed and checked daily before the children access the rooms/area.
* Play and learning is planned in line with children’s individual interests and the EYFS learning and development requirements.

**Resources**

* Care is taken to ensure that children only have access to resources/activities appropriate for their age and stage of development
* Children are supervised during all activities
* All resources are frequently cleaned
* Soft furnishings are frequently cleaned
* Risk assessments are completed as required for new activities

**Intimate Care**

* Children have their nappies changed according to their individual needs and requirements. Checks are documented with the time and staff name and information is shared with parents via FAMLY
* When developmentally appropriate, we work closely with parents/carers to sensitively support toilet training in a way that suits the individual needs of the child
* Potties are washed and disinfected after every use. Changing mats are wiped with anti-bacterial cleanser before and after every nappy change
* Toilets are wiped daily with anti-bacterial cleaner
* Staff ensure all the equipment is ready before children are placed on the changing mat
* No child is ever left unattended during nappy changing time – signs are displayed in each nappy area.
* Intimate care times are seen as opportunities for one-to-one interactions
* Staff do not change nappies whilst pregnant until a risk assessment has been discussed and conducted. Students only change nappies with the support and close supervision of a qualified member of staff
* Mobile phones and other electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities are not permitted to be used within the nursery, except for nursery tablets, which are not allowed to be used in changing or toileting areas
* We always follow systems in place to ensure there is an adequate supply of clean bedding, towels and spare clothes

**Sleep**

* Each child, who requires a sleep, has labelled nursery bedding which is washed at least weekly and when necessary, this takes into account any allergies and irritation to soap powders and any individual needs, for example if a child prefers to sleep in a sleeping bag, we will ask parents/carers to bring one from home
* All sleep mats meet necessary safety standards
* Only sheets and blankets that are of good condition are used, any loose threads are removed.
* Sleeping children are supervised at all times and checks are completed every 10 minutes. Checks are documented with the time and staff initials on the sleep check form and each child’s sleep time is shared with parents.

**Mealtimes**

Mealtimes are seen as social occasions and promote interactions. Staff always sit with children, interacting, promoting communication and social skills

* All children are closely supervised whilst eating and if any choking incidents occur paediatric first aid will be administered

**Comforter and dummies**

* If dummies are used, they are cleaned and sterilised. This also applies to dummies which have been dropped on the floor
* All dummies are stored in separate labelled containers to ensure no cross-contamination occurs
* Dummies are disposed of if they become damaged
* We encourage the use of dummies as a comforter, to ensure we are supporting children’s language and communication
* Comforters including teddies and blankets are kept safe and provided at sleep times, or if the child becomes unsettled.

**Children’s Development**

* In line with the EYFS, children are provided with learning opportunities, resources and activities according to their age and stage of development, to support their independence, including:

Encouragement to use a plastic knife and fork, progressing onto metal ones in the pre-school age room

Using open top cups

Have an understanding of healthy practices, including hygiene, eating and oral health

Learning how to be safe online

Using the Letters and Sounds scheme of work, introducing Phase 1 phonics, progressing onto Phase 2 when developmentally ready

To become independent in self care, such as hand washing and toileting, with an adult close by to support if needed, putting on simple clothing such as wellies and progressing onto coat, shoes, socks etc

Understanding that tools and equipment need to be used safely and managing some risks themselves

**Transitioning onto School**

Starting school is an important transition and some children may feel anxious about the move. We therefore do everything we can to facilitate a smooth transition and minimise any potential stresses.

* We provide a variety of resources that relate to the school, eg. uniform to dress up in, role play classroom, photographs of the schools the children are moving to, looking at their websites and pictures of the classrooms and staff
* With parents/carers permission, contact the schools representatives and invite them into our nursery so they have the opportunity to meet the children in a familiar environment
* Provide parents with a Transition Report to share with their new setting or complete a report as requested by the child’s new school. This will enable teachers and schools to have a good understanding of the children who will be joining them, including their interests and levels of development in the areas of learning.

| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** |
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| *March 2024* | *Lisa Hubbard* |