



Caring for Babies and Toddlers

EYFS: 3.47, 3.48, 3.54, 3.57, 3.58, 3.59, 3.60, 3.64, 3.73

At **Evergreen** we care for children under the age of two and ensure their health, safety and well-being through the following:

- Children under the age of two have a separate base room and are cared for in small intimate groups. We ensure that younger children have opportunities to have contact with older children whilst at nursery
- At least half of the staff team caring for children under the age of two will have undertaken specific training for working with babies Children transfer to the older age group when assessed as appropriate for their age/stage following our agreed transition and settling procedures
- Staff will monitor non-mobile babies around mobile babies and toddlers, to ensure the safety of non-mobile babies.

Environment

- The environment and equipment are checked daily before the children access the area. This includes checking the stability of cots and areas around, chairs and tables and that prams are intact and working for outings.
- The steriliser is kept in the kitchen and is washed out and cleaned daily.
- Non-mobile babies will have opportunities, and be encouraged, to develop tummy time skills to promote physical skills under close supervision.

Resources

- Care is taken to ensure that babies and toddlers do not have access to activities containing small pieces, which may be swallowed or otherwise injure the child
- Babies and toddlers will be closely observed during all activities
- Resources and equipment that babies and young children have placed in their mouth will be sterilised after use
- All resources will be frequently cleaned
- Soft furnishings will be frequently cleaned
- The use of baby walkers will only be used for limited periods of time. If used for extended periods of time on a regular basis, these can contribute to delayed physical development. We follow NHS guidelines which recommends that if these resources are to be used then it should be for no more than 20 minutes at a time.

Intimate Care

- Babies and toddlers have their nappies changed according to their individual needs and requirements by their key person wherever possible.
- Information will be shared between parents and the key person about nappy changing on the Famly app

- When developmentally appropriate, we will work closely with parents/carers to sensitively support toilet training in a way that suits the child and provide information to support them
- Potties are washed and disinfected after every use. Changing mats are wiped with anti-bacterial cleanser before and after every nappy change and appropriate PPE is worn
- No child is ever left unattended during nappy changing time
- 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
- Cameras and mobile phones are not permitted in toilet and nappy changing areas
- Nappy sacks and creams will not be left in reach of babies and children.

See separate Nappy changing policy.

Sleep

- Each baby must have his/her own bedding which is washed daily.
- We follow all safer sleep guidelines and advise parents of this information. Babies are always laid to sleep on their back, with their feet touching the foot of the cot
- Only sheets and blankets that are of good condition will be used, any loose threads will be removed.
- Cots are checked in the morning and before use to ensure no items are within reach i.e. hanging over or beside the cot (e.g. fly nets, cables, cord blinds)
- Sleeping children are supervised and regular checks are carried out.

Bottles

- Feeding times will be seen as an opportunity for bonding between practitioner and child and where possible fed by their key person
- Where food/milk is prepared for babies there is a separate area within the kitchen which is specifically designated for this preparation. Handwashing is completed before preparation is undertaken
- Bottles of formula milk are only made up as and when the child needs them. These should be cooled to body temperature, which means they should feel warm or cool, but not hot, and should be tested with a sterilised thermometer to ensure they are an appropriate temperature for the child to drink safely.
- Bottles are only made following the instructions on the formula, if during the making process there are discrepancies, a new bottle will be made
- All new staff and students will be shown the procedure, and are competent and confident before completing this on their own
- Following the Department of Health guidelines, we only use recently boiled water to make formula bottles (left for no longer than 30 minutes to cool). We do not use cooled boiled water that is reheated¹
- Contents of bottles are disposed of after two hours
- Babies are never left unsupervised with a bottle

¹ <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/making-up-infant-formula/>

- Labelled mothers' breast milk is stored in the fridge

Mealtimes

- Mealtimes are seen as social occasions and promote interactions. Staff will sit with babies and young children; interacting, promoting communication and social skills
- All children will be closely monitored whilst eating and if any choking incidents occur paediatric first aid will be administered
- Babies and young children will be encouraged to feed themselves with support, as required
- We will work together with parents regarding weaning and offer any support, as required.