



Caring for Babies and Toddlers Policy

Cherish Childcare provides care for babies and toddlers as well as pre-school children. We recognise that children under two require particularly responsive, consistent and developmentally appropriate care.

Key person, staffing and supervision

- Each baby and toddler is allocated a key person who works closely with parents/carers to understand routines, preferences, development and care needs.
- Staff deployment and ratios follow the current EYFS requirements for the age of the children attending.
- Children are actively supervised and the environment is organised to support both mobile and non-mobile babies safely.
- Staff caring for babies and toddlers receive induction and ongoing development appropriate to this age group.
- Babies and toddlers are given opportunities to interact with older children where this is safe, appropriate and beneficial.

Environment and resources

- Rooms, sleep equipment, highchairs, low chairs, pushchairs and other equipment are checked before use and any defect is acted upon promptly.
- Resources are age and stage appropriate and small-part/choking risks are considered carefully.
- Items mouthed by babies and toddlers are cleaned appropriately after use and soft furnishings are cleaned routinely.
- Equipment that restricts free movement is used only where necessary and for limited periods. Babies are given frequent opportunities for floor-based movement, reaching, rolling, crawling, cruising and walking.
- Play and learning follow children's interests and developmental needs within the EYFS.

Intimate care

- Nappies are changed according to individual need, by familiar staff wherever possible, and information is shared with parents/carers.

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This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
1 September 2026	Cherish Childcare	1 September 2027



- Children are never left unattended on a changing surface.
- Staff prepare all equipment before beginning a change and follow hygiene procedures before and after each change.
- Privacy and dignity are balanced with safeguarding. Intimate care is not carried out in unnecessarily isolated or closed-off situations.
- Personal phones, cameras and other recording devices are not permitted in intimate-care areas.
- Pregnant staff have an individual risk assessment before carrying out tasks that may present additional infection or manual-handling risks.
- Students may only support intimate care in line with their role, suitability and supervision arrangements.

Further detail is contained in the Nappy Changing Policy and relevant intimate-care procedures.

Safe sleep

- Babies and young children are put to sleep in line with current safer-sleep guidance and the EYFS.
- A firm, flat sleep surface is used. Babies are placed down on their back unless there is documented medical advice otherwise.
- Cots and sleep spaces are kept free from pillows, cot bumpers, loose toys and other items that could increase the risk of suffocation.
- Children are protected from overheating and head covering.
- Babies under six months have an adult in the same room while sleeping, and all sleeping children remain within sight and hearing of staff and are checked frequently.
- Sleep checks are recorded and shared with parents/carers as appropriate.
- Bedding is individual to the child where practicable, kept clean and laundered regularly or sooner if soiled.

Bottle feeding and breast milk

- Feeding is treated as a warm, responsive one-to-one interaction wherever possible.
- Formula is prepared hygienically in accordance with current manufacturer and health guidance, using freshly boiled water and the exact preparation instructions.
- Bottles and teats are cleaned and sterilised appropriately and discarded if damaged.
- Babies are never bottle-fed while propped up or left unattended with a bottle.

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- Expressed breast milk is clearly labelled, stored safely and handled in accordance with agreed storage guidance.
- A private, comfortable space will be made available where a parent wishes to breastfeed or express milk.

Mealtimes and weaning

- Babies and young children are seated safely and remain within sight and hearing of staff while eating.
- Staff work with parents/carers to understand the textures and foods a child is used to and do not make assumptions based on age alone.
- Food is prepared in a way that is suitable for each child's developmental stage and reduces choking risk.
- Staff supervise closely, remain alert because choking can be silent, and follow paediatric first aid procedures where required.
- Children are encouraged to self-feed with appropriate support.
- Allergy, intolerance and dietary information is followed in accordance with the Allergies and Allergic Reactions Policy.

Comforters and dummies

- Comforters are used sensitively to support security, sleep and settling.
- Dummies are stored separately, kept clean and discarded if damaged.
- Use of dummies is managed in a way that supports communication and language development and is discussed with parents/carers.

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