

CLOTHES CHANGING POLICY

In the interest of Health and Safety and best practice, **Over the Rainbow Early Learning Centre Ltd** follow a strict policy on the changing of children out of wet or soiled clothes. It is important to us that staff adhere to a high standard of hygiene at all time.

Principle

This policy is underwritten by the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016, the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 and the Tusla Quality and Regulatory Framework.

Nappy changing

Due to the setting not having adequate facilities to safely and hygienically change nappies, we do not admit children who are not toilet trained. Pull-ups or nappy pants are also discouraged.

Changing children out of wet or soiled clothes

Staff should ensure that when following this procedure there are always two adults or at least another adult in full view of the procedure.

Children while eating or at play sometime become dirty or wet. With their attention firmly fixed on a task, or a reluctance to stop play, children will occasionally "have an accident" and soil themselves. This is a natural function of growing up and toilet training. Children will be at different stages of their training and such occurrences will happen, that require changing.

We would not like a child to sit around in clothes that are wet or soiled. This policy/procedure aims to ensure a healthy environment for all children and that clothing can be changed quickly and as least stressful as possible.

Procedure

- If a child's clothes require changing, it is important to respect the child's privacy.
- The safety and welfare of the child is paramount.
- During the changing process the supervising adult will ensure they remain visible whilst changing clothes.
- Children should have at least one complete change of clothing within their bags, in case of mishaps. The setting also provides clothes if necessary.
- The staff member/child will collect a change of clothes from the child's bag or from preschool stock if necessary and allow the child the opportunity to change themselves.
- If necessary the staff member will help in this process, and then put the soiled/dirty/wet clothes in a plastic bag and store them in the child's bag.
- Reassurance and comfort will be given to the child when necessary.
- The parent/care giver will be informed of the incident and will be asked to return any preschool clothes after washing.
- If a child soils their clothes on a regular basis there may be an underlying problem that needs to be discussed with their parents/care giver.
- Parents are made aware of this policy within the Parents Handbook and asked to sign a permission form.
- Parents will need to ensure that their child has at least one change of clothes with them at the preschool.

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Communication

All parents/guardians are informed of this policy on enrolment. Staff members will check with parents that they have read and understood the policy and provide any assistance needed.

A summary of this policy will be included in the parent handbook. This policy will also be reviewed with staff members at induction and annual staff training.

A copy of all policies will be available during all hours of operation to staff members and parents in the Policy Folder located in the setting.

Parents/guardians may receive a copy of the full policy and procedures at any time upon request. Parents/guardians and all relevant staff members will receive written notification of any updates to this policy.

This policy was adopted by **Over the Rainbow Early Learning Centre Ltd** on:

Date: _____

Manager

co-Manager

Review Date: _____