

CLOTH / RESUABLE NAPPY POLICY

Reviewed by JH 1/10/2024

Humming Bees Day Nursery is committed to providing the best care for our children, the best service to our parents and the best practices to aid our environment.

Modern day reusable nappies can be as simple to use as their disposable counterparts – soaking/boiling is no longer recommended, meaning that changing and maintaining can be done hygienically within the Nursery setting.

WHY USE CLOTH NAPPIES?

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2015/jul/04/nappies-which-best-disposables-reusables-cost-ethics>

Cost

Many children stop using nappies around the age of two and a half. This is an estimated 4,000 disposable nappies. MoneySavingExpert found that using branded disposable nappies costs an average of £970 over 24 months, with own-brand nappies costing £750.

A pack of 20 new reusable nappies can be bought from £80, with many parents selling them on after the child has grown out of them.

Environmental Impact

Just replacing one disposable nappy a day with a reusable one, would save approximately 900 nappies from going to landfill.

Nappies account for an estimated 2-3% of all household waste (ref: recycling charity “Wrap”). Disposable nappies contain plastic and can take up to 500 years to decompose.

A year’s worth of disposable nappies for one child creates the equivalent to half a tonne of carbon dioxide.

ARE CLOTH NAPPIES HYGENIC?

Yes - with a good wash routine in place, reusable nappies will be clean and just as hygienic as disposable nappies.

HOW DO CLOTH NAPPIES WORK?

Construction

Using cloth nappies is not hard and only slightly different from using disposables. A cloth nappy will comprise of several different parts; waterproof layer, absorbency component and liner.

Waterproof layer: this can be a separate waterproof wrap, or sewn in to an all in one or pocket nappy.

Absorbency component: absorbs the urine and catches the faeces. This can be a shaped fitted nappy,

an absorbent inner layer or loose inserts.

Liner: the layer nearest the baby's skin. Helps to catch any solids and acts as a stay dry barrier against baby's skin.

At night, you may need to add extra absorbency in the form of a booster, so that the nappy will last 12-14 hours without a change. This is just a pad of fabric – effectively an extension of the nappy.

Care instructions

When a nappy is removed from a child, any solids are disposed of (usually flushed down the toilet) and the nappy itself and any washable liner is placed in a nappy bucket. If a two-part system is used (where the outer wrap is separate to the absorbent layers), the wrap does not need to be changed with every use unless it is soiled.

HOW WE MANAGE CLOTH NAPPIES

Our staff will work with families to meet their individual preferences regarding nappies whilst still maintaining health and hygiene practices.

If a family provides cloth nappies for their child's use we ask that the appropriate coverings (outer layers) are also provided to prevent faeces from leaking. It is recommended that clothing is covering the nappy at all time, to further prevent leakage.

We are unable to wash cloth nappies within the Nursery, but instead will dispose of the soiled elements as per a typical nappy change, and seal the reusable components in a wash bag to be taken home with the child for laundering.

Wash bags are kept out of reach from children at all times.