

Washable Cloth Nappies Policy

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Our Values

At Young Friends, sustainability is not an add-on — it's embedded in every decision we make. Our use of washable cloth nappies is a core part of our environmental responsibility, as well as a practical, respectful approach to care.

- **Sustainability** – Reducing landfill waste, plastic use, and unnecessary consumption
 - **Respect** – Gentle on skin, developmentally appropriate, and consistent across home and nursery
 - **Authenticity** – Not greenwashing — real systems, real routines, real change
 - **Supportive Leadership** – Staff are trained, confident and calm in reusable nappy care
 - **Community** – Families are supported, not judged, in our cloth nappy journey
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Policy Statement

Young Friends provides a full cloth nappy service as part of our paid **extras package**. This includes:

- High-quality, washable cloth nappies
 - Reusable wipes
 - In-house laundering using natural, child-safe products
 - Ongoing monitoring of nappy comfort, hygiene and fit
 - Advice and support for parents wanting to use cloth at home
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Why We Do This

We estimate that each child in disposable nappies produces **up to 1 tonne of waste** over their time in early years care. By choosing reusable nappies:

- We dramatically reduce our landfill contribution
 - We avoid plastic waste and chemical exposure
 - Children have **a healthier, breathable** nappy experience
 - Staff become confident in an area that supports wider environmental learning
 - Children are part of a setting where **sustainability is modelled daily**, not just talked about
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How It Works in Practice

- Families opting into our extras package are automatically included in the cloth nappy system
 - Each child has their own labelled set of nappies and wipes
 - Used nappies are stored hygienically and laundered **daily on site**
 - All nappies are washed at 60°C with eco detergent, line dried where possible • Nappies are checked for wear and comfort and replaced as needed • Staff are trained in:
 - Fitting and changing cloth nappies
 - Correct hygiene protocols
 - Responding sensitively to toileting signals and routines
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Our Stance on Disposable Nappies

As part of our environmental commitment, **we do not provide or accept disposable nappies** at Young Friends. This is a **conscious and responsible decision**:

- We **do not have an offensive waste collection service**
 - Disposables cannot be disposed of safely or sustainably on-site
 - We take a leadership stance in **climate-conscious early years practice**
 - All children in nappies are supported with our full cloth system
 - Where a **documented medical exemption** is in place, a personalised alternative may be agreed
 - We ask all families to support this essential part of our ethos and values and we cannot be flexible unless the reason is medical.
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Home Partnerships

- Parents are welcome to use their own reusable system from home (if preferred)
 - We can offer guidance, support and reassurance
 - We understand some families may still use disposables at home — we work **without judgement** • We use consistent language and support for toilet learning
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Exclusions and Allergies

- If a child has a confirmed skin sensitivity or allergy to cloth materials, an alternative plan will be agreed with management
 - Disposable wipes are not used unless medically required
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Linked Policies

- Sustainability Policy
 - Toileting and Intimate Care Policy
 - Food and Nutrition (re hygiene crossover)
 - Learning and Development (toilet readiness)
 - Health and Safety
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Authorisation

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