

Equipment Policy

Rationale

At the Preschool we believe that high quality early years care and education are promoted by providing children with safe, clean, attractive, developmentally appropriate resources and equipment to help the child reach their full potential, physically, spiritually, emotionally, cultural and educational needs.

The Pre-school Centre will:

- All new members of staff, including students and volunteers, receive copies of our equipment policy, and ensure this is discussed with them during their induction meeting.
- Provide the children with resources and equipment that will reinforce and extend their knowledge, skills and also stimulate their minds to encourage the 3 prime areas of the EYFS

Resources

- All our resources meet the appropriate safety standards and regulations.
- All our resources and equipment are appropriate for the children's age and stage of development, including babies and children under two.
- All our resources and equipment are clean and well maintained.
- Resources and equipment are clearly labelled and stored away safe and tidy.
- Play resources are made accessible to the children so that they are able to make free choices and work or play independently.
- We choose resources which promote positive images of all races, cultures, social backgrounds and abilities.
- We discourage any toys or types of play that promote gender stereotypes.
- We offer resources that provide sensory experiences to help language and communication development.
- We supply resources that offer emotional comfort and support to babies and children under two.

- We provide a varied and stimulating range of resources, promoting imagination, fun and flexibility, and encouraging open-ended activities for all the children.
- Provide play equipment and resources that promote continuity and progression, provide sufficient challenge and meet the needs and interests of all children. Each room has appropriate toys which reflect the abilities of the children present

Furniture

- We provide enough furniture to create a comfortable and relaxed environment for all the children.
- All new furniture that we purchase takes into account the age, size, height, and physical ability of all the children.
- Furniture is kept clean and well maintained and meets all the safety standards.
- All furniture that is not in use is stored safely
- Furniture never creates an obstruction to emergency exits.

Other resources

- Tools and equipment such as scissors, staplers, hammers or nails are stored and labelled and children are taught and supervised on how to handle them correctly and safely.
- Children are encouraged to collect and save clean and safe recycled household and natural materials to use again.
- Recycled resources are clearly labelled and stored appropriately.

Babies and children under 2

The above policy applies to and meets the requirements of babies and children under the age of 2.

Links, References and regulations

Links to other policies

- Organisation
- Care, Learning and Play
- Physical Environment
- Safety
- Food and Drink
- Equal Opportunities
- Special Needs
- Documentation

Reference to OFSTED The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements

Outdoor and indoor spaces, furniture, equipment and toys, must be safe and suitable for their purpose.

References

Section 3 – The safeguarding and welfare requirements

Reviewed 01.02.2018 - By Saskia Gregory/Lisa Best