

EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES

Statement of intent:

We believe that high quality early years care and education is promoted by providing children with safe, clean, attractive, age and stage appropriate resources, toys and equipment.

Aim:

We aim to provide children with resources and equipment that help to consolidate and extend their knowledge, skills, interests and aptitudes.

Methods:

In order to achieve this aim we:

1. Provide play equipment and resources that are safe and – where applicable – conform to safety standards and regulations;
2. Provide a sufficient quantity of equipment and resources for the number of children;
3. Provide resources that promote all areas of children's learning and development, which may be child or adult-led;
4. Select books, equipment and resources that promote positive images of people of all colours, cultures and abilities, are non-discriminatory and avoid racial and gender stereotyping;
5. Provide play equipment and resources that promote continuity and progression, provide sufficient challenge and meet the needs and interests of all children. We use a 'Today I would like to play with...' Board. This is used by staff and parents/carers to ensure we are providing activities appropriate to children's individual interests. If a child requests a toy and/or activity which is not out on that particular day, the child's name is written on the board together with the toy and/or activity s/he has requested. We then aim to make these available during the session at some point or to include them in future planning;
6. Provide made, natural and recycled materials that are clean, in good condition and safe for the children to use;
7. Provide a range of raw materials which can be used in a variety of ways and encourage an open-ended approach to creativity and problem solving;
8. Provide furniture that is suitable for children and furniture that is suitable for adults;
9. Store and display resources and equipment where children can independently choose and select them as far as our set up and storage facilities allow;
10. We use a 'daily safety check' sheet to record the checking of resources and equipment. We repair and clean, or replace, any unsafe, worn out, dirty or damaged equipment;

- 11 Keep an inventory of resources and equipment and we use it to:
 - a) Review the balance of resources and equipment so that they can support a range of activities across all areas of play, learning and development;
 - b) Provide adequate insurance cover for the setting's resources and equipment.

The inventory is prepared at least once a year by the staff.

12. Use the local mobile library to introduce new books and a variety of resources from Kent County Council's Treasure Chest Resource Centre to support children's interests;
13. Plan the provision of activities and appropriate resources so that a balance of familiar equipment and resources and new exciting challenges are offered.