



St. Mary's Playgroup

Equipment and Resources Policy

Statement of intent

We believe that high-quality early years care and education is promoted by providing children with safe, clean, attractive, developmentally appropriate resources, toys and equipment but indoors and outside.

Aim

We aim to provide children with access to a range of resources and equipment that help to stimulate enjoyment, play and consolidate and extend their knowledge, skills, interests, learning and development both indoors and outdoors.

Methods

In order to achieve this aim we:

- Provide play equipment and resources that are safe and – where applicable – conform to the BS EN safety standards or the Toys (safety) Regulations (1995).
- Ensure that all electrical toys and equipment are subject to PAT (Portable Appliance Testing).
- Provide enough equipment and resources for the number of children.
- Provide resources that promote all areas of children's learning and development, which may be child or adult led.
- Select books, equipment and resources that promote positive images with regards to cultures, ethnicity, gender and abilities, are non-discriminatory and avoid racial and gender stereotyping.
- Provide resources which will where possible show men and women in a variety of roles and jobs and people with different abilities being both active and creative. Examples of everyday life will portray people from a variety of family groups and cultural backgrounds.
- Provide play equipment and resources that promote progression, provide sufficient challenge and meet the needs and interests of all children.
- Provide man-made, natural and recycled materials that are clean, in good condition and safe for the children to use.
- Provide furniture that is suitable for both children and adults.
- Store and display resources and equipment where children can independently choose and select them as appropriate.
- Regularly check all resources and equipment that are available at each session and ensure they are put away at the end of each session.
- Repair, clean, or replace, any unsafe, worn out, dirty or damaged equipment
- Maintain an inventory of resources and equipment, using the inventory to provide adequate insurance cover.
- Plan the provision of activities and appropriate resources so that a balance of familiar equipment and resources and new exciting challenges is offered.

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