

## **Equipment & Toys**

All of our children have access to high quality, well maintained toys, equipment, resources and learning materials both inside and outside the nursery.

Welfare Requirements are met when children have opportunities to play with ideas in different situations and with a variety of resources, they discover connections and come to new and better understandings and ways of doing things. Adult support in this process enhances their ability to think critically and ask questions.

We aim to provide the high quality and safe equipment / toys, resources and learning materials for the children in our setting. We have a great selection of equipment matched carefully to the ages and needs of all the children. Equipment is selected according to our criteria and required attributes. All equipment must be well cared for and maintained in a clean hygienic condition by the staff. Resources must be stored in storage boxes in age appropriate rooms or storage areas. Equipment, resources and toys must be cleaned following the cleaning schedules / rotas set out in every room.

### **All equipment and toys must be:**

- of high quality
- reflect our multi-cultural society, diversity and inclusion in a positive way
- enable children to develop social, cognitive, physical and intellectual skills
- reflect disability, age, sexual orientation, family constitution and class in a positive way
- meet the needs of the individual and group of children at the Nursery
- be sturdy and in excellent condition
- comply with fire safety requirements and meet fire regulations
- be appropriate to the ages of the children
- be enjoyable and engaging for the children to use
- meet and support any child's particular or special needs as defined by doctor physiotherapist, consultant or other agencies involved in the Child's development and progress
- meet the requirements of Registration and the EYFS
- encourage and enable children to develop home languages and English
- support the learning of children with particular or special needs (SEND) and enhance the learning of children
- meet our Health and Safety Policy requirements
- meet our Equality and Diversity Policy
- include suggestions from Parents
- be made with environmentally friendly or natural materials wherever possible
- be robust and provide longevity

Every new resource is risk assessed thoroughly to see if there is anything we can do to minimise the risk to all babies and children. All broken or damaged toys will be disposed of immediately to ensure the children do not become harmed whilst playing with the toys. New toys, resources and equipment are checked by our Manager / deputy before being offered to children for them to explore.

A cleaning schedule in each room in every Nursery ensures the highest levels of hygiene. This means that every toy and resource is cleaned regularly in each room. Soft toys are sterilised by putting them in the washing machine with a germ killing detergent safe for young children. Hard toys are soaked in disinfectant.

When using all pieces of Nursery equipment vigilance is essential. Items which are broken, damaged or worn will be removed from play and use and handed to the Nursery Manager / deputy. These will be repaired or disposed of. Equipment which is sound but no longer meets our needs will be donated to charity. Any item of equipment that is worn, damaged or outdated must be reported to the Manager / deputy immediately.

We are very grateful for donations from our parents and families. Extra toy, books and resources are always welcome. Please speak to the Nursery Manager / deputy so that our criteria and safety requirements can be checked before bringing in resources.

**There are different procedures in place to ensure messy play is carried out as safely as possible:**

- All activities are closely supervised to ensure the children's health and safety.
- All the equipment used is bought from reputable companies and age appropriate.
- All equipment such as paint, glue or sand is checked for safety of use and side effects.
- The children will be encouraged to wear aprons but sometimes it will be inevitable that children will get materials on their clothing due to enthusiasm during creative play
- After all activities children will be encouraged to wash their hands.
- Babies will be cleaned by member of staff, in the Baby Room. The older children will be encouraged to attempt to wash their own hands building on their independence and confidence. The children in the Pre-school Room are encouraged to go to the sink and wash their own hands Should a child get their clothes dirty or wet they will be changed into their spare clothes. Children without spare clothing, will be dressed in the Nursery's spare clothing.

**We use a variety of sensory / messy play in Nursery such as:**

- Water
- Cornflour
- Cooked rice or pasta
- Lentils and pulses
- Cereal
- Jelly
- Ice
- Foam
- Compost and Stones
- Cornflour and water
- Bark chips and wood chips
- Other messy play experiences which children will enjoy

The children are able to explore different textures freely on either large builder trays, on the floor or in smaller trays on low tables indoors or out in the garden. All activities are carefully supervised to ensure the children's health and safety are our top priority at all times. Utensils and other equipment used are cleaned / sterilised after each use.

**This policy was revised & updated on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
Eversley Nursery School**