

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Child Protection
Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children.
Suitable Premises, Environment and Equipment - Outdoor and indoor spaces,
furniture and toys must be safe and suitable for purpose.



18. EQUIPMENT and RESOURCES

Policy Statement

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

We aim to provide children with resources and equipment which help to consolidate and extend their knowledge, skills, interests and aptitudes. This setting believes that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents/carers, staff, volunteers and visitors by assessing and minimising the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.

Procedures

- Staff plan the provision of activities and appropriate resources so that a balance of familiar equipment and resources and new exciting challenges are offered.
- Staff continually monitor all equipment, play and toilet areas to provide a safe environment for all children and adults.
- Children are made aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.
- We provide play equipment and resources which are safe and - where applicable - conform to the BSEN safety standards or Toys (Safety) Regulation (1995);
- We provide play equipment and resources which promote continuity and progression, provide sufficient challenge and meet the needs and interests of all children;
- We provide furniture which is suitable for children and furniture which is suitable for adults;
- We provide adequate insurance cover for the pre-school's resources and equipment;

Storage

- All dangerous materials, including medicines and cleaning materials, are stored out of reach of children;
- We keep an inventory of resources and equipment;
- All resources and materials from which children select are stored safely;
- All equipment and resources are stored or stacked safely to prevent them accidentally falling or collapsing.

Electrical equipment

- All electrical equipment conforms to safety requirements and is checked regularly;
- Our electricity meters are not accessible to the children;
- Heaters, electric sockets, wires and leads are properly guarded and the children are taught not to touch them;
- There are sufficient sockets to prevent overloading;
- Lighting and ventilation is adequate in all areas including storage areas.

ICT

Feltwell Playgroup aims to promote children's use of ICT as a tool for learning, develop the necessary skills to achieve this and also to develop their understanding of its everyday use.

To achieve this, we will aim to:

- Use ICT appropriately throughout the setting;
- Enable and encourage children to investigate and identify the uses of technology that surrounds them in their everyday lives;
- Enable and encourage children to independently and confidently access and use a range of ICT equipment and resources such as tablets and programmable toys to support their learning and communication;
- Integrate technology into role play to reflect the world around us;
- Encourage children to work co-operatively, share knowledge, skills and enjoyment and to communicate with each other;
- Provide children with a wide range of familiar resources which are intuitive and accessible to develop their technological understanding;
- Help staff to increase their confidence and enthusiasm in their own use of ICT to be able to adequately support children's learning.

Activities and resources

- Before purchase, loan or receivership of donations, equipment and resources are checked to ensure that they are safe for the ages and stages of the children currently attending the setting;
- Equipment is erected with care and checked on completion;
- Activities such as cooking, woodwork and energetic play receive close and constant supervision;
- Equipment offered to children is developmentally appropriate, recognising that materials suitable for an older child may pose a risk to younger/less mature children;
- We provide a sufficient quantity of equipment and resources for the number of children;
- We provide resources which promote all areas of children's learning and development, which may be child or adult led;
- We select books, equipment and resources which promote positive images of people of all races, cultures and abilities, are non-discriminatory and avoid racial and gender stereotyping;
- The layout of play equipment allows adults and children to move safely and freely between activities;
- All equipment is regularly checked for cleanliness and safety and any dangerous items are repaired or discarded;
- All materials, including paint and glue, are non-toxic;
- Sand is clean and suitable for children's play;
- Physical play is constantly supervised;
- Children are taught to handle and store tools safely;
- Children learn about health, safety and personal hygiene through the activities we provide and the routines we follow;
- We check all resources and equipment regularly. We repair and clean, or replace any unsafe, worn out, dirty or damaged equipment;
- Any faulty equipment is removed from us, if it cannot be repaired it is discarded;
- We ensure that children are not made vulnerable within any part of our premises, nor by any activity.
- Equipment or resources bought with Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) funds, although primarily purchased with a specific child or group of children in mind, are not used solely by those children and others have equal opportunities to benefit from them.

Outdoor area

- Our outdoor area is securely fenced;
- Our outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of rubbish before it is used;
- Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied before children start playing outside;
- Our outdoor sand pit is covered and is cleaned regularly;
- All outdoor activities are supervised at all times.

Legal Framework

- Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)
- Electricity at Work Regulations 1989
- Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992
- BSEN safety standards or Toys (Safety) Regulation (1995);
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 and 1999

Relevant/useful contacts

HEALTH and SAFETY INFORMATION LINE: 0845 3450055

This policy was adopted by

Feltwell Playgroup

On

19.03.2024

Date to be reviewed

(on or before) 19.03.2025

Signed on behalf of the provider

J.I.

Name of signatory

Jonathan Irving

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)

Committee Chairperson