

Equipment and Resources

At Townsend Montessori Nurseries Limited we believe that high-quality care and early learning is promoted by providing children with safe, clean, stimulating, age and stage appropriate resources, toys and equipment.

To ensure this occurs within the nursery, including in our outdoor areas, we will:

- Provide play equipment and resources which are safe and, where applicable, conform to the European Standards for Playground Equipment: EN 1176 and EN 1177, BS EN safety standards or Toys (Safety) Regulation (1995)
- Provide a sufficient quantity of equipment and resources for the number of children registered in the nursery
- Provide resources to meet children's individual needs and interests
- Provide resources which promote all areas of children's learning and development
- Select books, equipment and resources which promote positive images of people of all races, cultures, ages, gender and abilities, are non-discriminatory and do not stereotype
- Provide play equipment and resources which promote continuity and progression, provide sufficient challenges and meet the needs and interests of all children
- Store and display resources and equipment where all children can independently choose and select them.
- Check all resources and equipment before first use to identify any potential risks and again regularly at the beginning of every session and when they are put away at the end of every session. This is recorded on written risk assessments. We repair and clean or replace any unsafe, worn out, dirty or damaged equipment whenever required
- For baby and toddler age rooms, staff will not use chairs to sit on. This is to enable all engagement and handling of babies and toddlers to take place at a floor-based level.
- For rooms aimed at children under thirty-six months of age a 'choking test' will be used to determine the suitability of smaller resources. If the resource can fit within the 'choking test' it will be deemed not suitable for this age group and therefore will not be used within the room.
- Bouncer Chairs will not be used for children over five months of age. Parents/Carers are asked to provide individual care routines (see child pack) if their child's needs would require the use of a bouncer past this age.
- Keep an inventory of resources and equipment. This records the date on which each item was purchased and the price paid for it
- Evaluate the children's interests and development when acquiring resources
- Encourage children to respect the equipment and resources and tidy these away when play has finished. Areas will be labelled with photographic images and for the older children, words will accompany the photographs.
- Use the local libraries and Emporium Plus scheme to introduce a variety of resources to support children's interests.

- Plan the environment with a variety of activities and appropriate resources so that a balance of familiar equipment and resources and new exciting challenges are offered.

Food Play

At Townsend Montessori Nurseries Limited we ensure any food we use for play with the children is carefully supervised. We will also use the following procedures to ensure children are kept safe:

- Choking hazards are checked and avoided
- We will not use whole jelly cubes for play
- Small objects such as dried pasta and pulses will only be used for older children and under supervision
- All allergies and intolerances will be checked, and activities will be adapted to suit all children's needs, so no child is excluded
- All activities including food will be included on the planning sheets, so all staff and parents are aware of the ingredients
- Children's allergies are displayed in the room to ensure all needs are met
- Any cooking activities will be checked prior to start to ensure all children are able use all the ingredients based on their individual needs
- We will not use food in play unless it enhances the opportunities children are receiving from the activity.

This policy was adopted on	Date for review
23.12.19	December 2020