Messy Play Policy

“Children’s creativity must be extended by the provision of support for their curiosity, exploration and play. They must be provided with opportunities to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings, for example through a variety of art, music, movement, dance, imaginative and role play activities, mathematics and design and technology.”

Practice Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2007

We have adopted a messy play policy to reflect our commitment to ensuring that all the children in our care have quality play experiences. Children learn through their senses, through exploration and experimentation and becoming little scientists. Messy play such as sand, water, play dough, paint, corn flour etc are all part of Nursery’s continuous provision and as such is on offer to the children throughout the day. It is important that the children have free access to this play to enable them to build and extend on their play, to revisit and replay experiences and move forward.

Procedures

- All activities are closely supervised to ensure the children’s health and safety. Where needed an individual risk assessment will be put in place to ensure the safety of the children is met.

- 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 them or their clothing.

- After all activity’s children will be encouraged to wash their hands.

- Babies will be cleaned by a member of staff, in the Toddler room we have had the soap and paper towel dispenser moved so the children can attempt to wash their own hands, this builds on their independence and confidence. The children in the Pre-school unit are encouraged to go to the bathroom and wash their own hands in preparation.

- Should a child get their clothes dirty they will be changed into their spare clothes if they have none, they will be dressed in nursery clothes.

**Last reviewed:** October 2020: Amanda Zanella