

Equipment Policy

Aim

In Sidcup Baptist Church Playgroup we provide the children with furniture, equipment, toys and resources that meet the teaching and learning needs appropriate to their age, as well as their social, physical, emotional, educational, spiritual and cultural needs and development.

Implementation of the policy in Sidcup Baptist Church Playgroup:

The management committee must ensure that:

- new members of staff, including students and volunteers, receive copies of the equipment policy and that this is discussed with them during their induction meeting.

Toys

- All our toys meet the appropriate safety standards and regulations.
- All our toys are appropriate for the children's age and stage of development.
- All our toys are clean and well maintained.
- Toys are clearly labelled and stored in a safe and tidy way.
- Where possible toys are made accessible to the children so that they are able to make free choices and work or play independently.
- We choose resources, such as books and toys, which promote positive images of all races, cultures, social backgrounds and abilities.
- We discourage any toys or types of play that promote gender stereotypes.
- We offer toys that provide sensory experiences to help language development.
- We supply toys that offer emotional comfort and support to less-confident children.
- We provide enough toys to give children a varied and stimulating range of resources, promoting imagination, fun and flexibility, and encouraging open-ended activities.

Furniture

- We provide enough furniture to create a comfortable and relaxed environment for all the children.

- All new furniture that we purchase takes into account the age, size, height, physical ability and disability of all the children.
- Furniture is kept clean and well maintained and meets all the safety standards.
- All furniture that is not in use is stored safely, not stacked in any way that puts children or staff at risk.
- Furniture never creates an obstruction to emergency exits.

Other resources

- Children are taught how to safely and correctly handle tools and equipment such as scissors, staplers, hammers or nails.
- Children are encouraged to collect and save clean and safe recycled household and natural materials to use again.
- Recycled resources used for various activities are stored appropriately.

References

Reference to the Early Years Foundation Stage safeguarding and welfare requirements

Providers must ensure that their premises, including overall floor space and outdoor spaces, are fit for purpose and suitable for the age of the children care for and the activities provided on the premises.

The premises and equipment must be organised in a way that meets the needs of the children.

Providers must comply with the requirements of health and safety legislation.

Providers must provide access to an outdoor play area.

References

Department for Education: Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2014)

Reviewed March 2016