



Play and Enabling Environments Policy

Our thinking about play has been influenced over the years by the work of many educationalists, psychologists, researchers and practitioners, and much has been written about how young children learn and how adults can support their learning (*Learning through play pg6*)

At Bear Hugs Nursery we believe that the best way to prepare children for their adult life is to give them what they need as children. Children learn best when they are given the opportunities to make decisions, choices and even errors. At Bear Hugs we concentrate on what children can do (rather than what they cannot do) and use this as a starting point of your child's education.

The toys, equipment and environment for indoor and outdoor play in our nursery provides opportunities within the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for children to develop new skills and concepts in the course of their play and exploration.

Outdoor Play

The outdoors has something more to offer than just physical benefits. Cognitive and social/emotional development is impacted, too. Outside, children are more likely to invent games. As they do, they are able to express themselves and learn about the world in their own way. They feel safe and in control, which promotes autonomy, decision-making, and organisational skills

The equipment we provide:

- Is appropriate for the ages and stages of the children.
- Offers the children challenges to develop imagination, creativity, physical, social, personal and all kinds of symbolic behaviour (reading, writing, drawing, role play, dancing, maths, numbers and talking).
- Features positive images of people, both male and female, from a range of ethnic and cultural groups, with and without disabilities.
- Includes a range of raw materials, which can be used in a variety of ways and encourages an open-ended approach to creativity and problem solving.
- Will enable children, with adult support as necessary, to develop individual potential.
- The Nursery will endeavour to ensure that all toys and equipment conform to all relevant BSEN safety regulations and is sound and well made.
- Toys and equipment will be checked as part of the daily safety audit before use. Any unsuitable items will be removed from use.