

Selecting Equipment and Toys Policy and Practice

The toys and equipment in the Nursery provide opportunities for children with adult help to develop new skills and concepts in the course of their play and exploration. The equipment we provide:

- Is appropriate for the ages and stages of the children
- Offers challenges to developing physical, social, personal and intellectual skills
- Features positive images of people: both male and female, from a range of ethnic and cultural groups and with and without disabilities
- Will enable children, with adult support, to develop individual potential and move towards required learning outcomes
- Conforms to all relevant safety regulations and is sound and well made
- Have been risk assessed before use

We select books, equipment and resources that promote positive images of people of all races, cultures and abilities, are non-discriminatory and avoid racial and gender stereotyping.

We check all resources and equipment regularly as they are set out at the beginning of each session and put away at the end of each session. We repair and clean, or replace any unsafe, worn out, dirty or damaged equipment.

We keep an inventory of resources and equipment. This will record the date on which each item was purchased and the price paid for it.

All toys supplied in the UK must meet a list of essential safety requirements which are set out in the Toy (Safety) Regulations 2011 (previously the Toy safety Regulations 1995 – updated in 2010 and now revoked) and to prove that these requirements are met, all toys should also carry a CE marking.

Toy regulations in the UK are governed by a Europe-wide toy safety standard EN71 which governs the safety all toys sold in the UK and within the European Union. These toy safety standards have been in place since 1990, and were updated in 1995.

EN71 covers the safety standards for all toys for children up to the age of 14 - products that are not intended as toys but look like toys (e.g. those made for decorative purposes) are still included under the directive. It also divides toy suitability into age ranges and warnings for toys that are unsuitable for children under three. The legislation is in six parts and covers aspects of safety that include flammability, toxicity and safety marking.

The United Kingdom Conformity Assessed or UKCA mark is being phased in from 1st January 2021 to replace the CE mark in Great Britain, although for most goods the CE mark will remain acceptable for a transition period ending on 31 December 2024.

Last updated January 2025