Equipment And Resources Policy

Academic year 2026/27 | Reviewed at least annually

Statement of Intent

At The Wendy House, we recognise that high-quality, safe and stimulating resources play an important role in children's learning and development.

We aim to provide a wide range of developmentally appropriate equipment and resources that encourage children to explore, investigate, create, problem-solve and develop their independence.

Our Aims

We aim to provide equipment and resources that:

- are safe, suitable and appropriate for the age and development of the children using them;
- support all areas of learning and development within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS);
- reflect children's individual interests and needs;
- provide appropriate challenge;
- promote independence, curiosity, creativity and problem-solving;
- promote positive representations of different people, families, cultures and abilities; and
- are maintained in a clean and suitable condition.

Safety

Equipment, toys and resources will be selected with children's safety in mind.

Where applicable, toys and equipment will meet relevant product safety requirements, including the **Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011 (as amended)** and applicable safety standards.

Manufacturer's instructions, age recommendations and safety warnings will be followed where appropriate.

Resources will be appropriate for the age, stage of development and individual needs of the children using them.

Items that may present a particular risk, including resources containing small parts, will only be provided where appropriate and with suitable supervision and risk assessment.

Checking Equipment

As a pack-away preschool, equipment and resources are checked as they are set out at the beginning of sessions and as they are packed away.

Staff will remain alert throughout the session to equipment or resources that become damaged or unsafe.

Any item identified as unsafe, excessively worn, broken or damaged will be removed from children's use immediately.

The item will then be repaired, replaced or disposed of as appropriate.

Outdoor equipment and areas will also be checked before use.

Cleaning and Hygiene

Equipment and resources will be cleaned appropriately and regularly, taking account of how frequently they are used and the type of resource.

Resources that become contaminated with bodily fluids will be removed from use and cleaned or disposed of appropriately.

Particular attention will be given to frequently handled resources and equipment.

Choosing Resources

We provide a balance of familiar resources and new experiences and challenges.

Resources may include:

- commercially produced toys and equipment;
- books;
- creative materials;
- construction resources;
- role-play resources;
- sensory materials;
- natural materials;
- recycled and reclaimed materials; and
- open-ended resources that can be explored and used in different ways.

Natural, recycled and reclaimed materials will be checked to ensure they are clean and safe before being made available to children.

Independence and Accessibility

Where appropriate, resources will be positioned so that children can see, access, select and return them independently.

Staff will support children to make choices and encourage them to take increasing responsibility for caring for resources and helping to tidy them away.

Resources that require adult supervision will be stored appropriately and made available when suitable.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We aim to provide resources that positively represent the diversity of children, families and communities.

Books, toys, displays and other resources will be selected to challenge stereotypes and promote positive representations of different cultures, ethnicities, abilities, genders and family structures.

Where appropriate, resources will be adapted or additional equipment provided to enable children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to participate fully in preschool activities.

Quantity and Suitability

We will provide sufficient equipment and resources for the number of children attending the setting.

Furniture and equipment will be suitable for their intended purpose and, where appropriate, suitable for both children and adults.

Resources will be reviewed as children's interests and needs change.

Staff Responsibility

All staff share responsibility for identifying and reporting damaged, unsuitable or unsafe equipment.

Staff are expected to use resources appropriately, follow relevant safety instructions and ensure appropriate levels of supervision.

Concerns about the safety or suitability of equipment should be reported to the Manager.

Review

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and sooner where legislation, statutory guidance or the needs of the setting change.

Policy Approval & Review

Policy year	2026/2027
Approval status	Awaiting Management Committee approval
Next scheduled review	March 2027