



BARNFIELDS EXTRA

BARNEY BEARS NURSERY

SUITABLE PREMISES, ENVIRONMENT AND EQUIPMENT POLICY

Barney Bears Nursery is committed to providing a welcoming and caring environment that provides for the children's safety and wellbeing and supports them in their development and learning.

We believe that the organisation and layout of the environment should enable children to be active and involved in social and individual play activities and experiences.

*'A rich and varied **environment** supports children's learning and development. It gives them the confidence to explore and learn in secure and safe, yet challenging, indoor and outdoor spaces.'*

(EYCS commitment 3.3 The Learning Environment)

Implementation of the policy in Barney Bears Nursery

It is the responsibility of the Board of Barney Bears Nursery:

- To take positive steps to establish a welcoming and friendly environment for staff, children and parents.
- To provide a safe, secure and supportive environment for the children's care, health and wellbeing, as well as their development and learning.
- To provide both indoor and outdoor play activities and experiences.
- To ensure that all aspects of planning, design and building, observe local control requirements.
- To implement specific local control requirements with regard to health and safety, planning and building requirements, provision of equipment and suitability of staff.

It is the responsibility of the staff:

- To understand that, some children may need extra support to express their feelings and come to terms with them.
- To encourage children to help to plan the layout of the environment and to contribute to keeping it tidy.
- To ensure that children have opportunities to be outside on a daily basis all year round.
- To help children to understand how to behave outdoors and inside by talking about personal safety, risks and the safety of others.
- To create an indoor environment that is reassuring and comforting for all children, while providing interest, from time to time, through novelty.
- Where possible to link the indoor and outdoor environments so that children can move freely between them.

Space within Barney Bears Nursery

- We provide appropriate space for children, including those with special needs and disabilities, to move freely and safely around the nursery.
- We organise the space to allow a wide range of play experiences, including whole group, small group and individual activities.

Toilet facilities

- We provide appropriate and sufficient toilets and hand washing facilities (one toilet and wash basin for every ten children) for the number of children in the nursery, as well as separate toilet facilities for adults. We ensure that facilities are clean and hygienic at all times.
- We provide appropriate space and facilities to encourage children to be independent.
- We provide a changing area.

Premises

- We provide a rest area appropriate for the children's needs.
- We ensure that all areas used by the nursery are clean and well maintained.
- We ensure that there is a working telephone in the nursery room to contact outside assistance as well as to receive incoming calls.
- We have efficient systems for contacting parents, support services and other agencies.
- We ensure that all children have access to drinking water, toilet facilities and eating areas.
- We provide an environment that reflects the children's development and learning and has relevance for local cultures and communities.
- We ensure that the premises are well lit and have some natural light.
- We ensure that the premises are kept at a comfortable temperature throughout the year.
- We ensure that the premises are for the sole use of Barnfields Early Years and Barney Bears Nursery from 8.40 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.
- We provide safe storage facilities for all types of equipment, care and hygiene facilities and play and learning equipment.
- We provide an area of privacy where parents, staff and other agencies can speak confidentially.

The indoor environment

- We create defined areas for different areas of learning.
- We use the available space creatively and flexibly to provide opportunities for the children's imaginative play, movement children large scale play activities.
- We provide opportunities for both floor play and table activities.
- By using low level open storage boxes and shelves we create opportunities for children to access equipment and materials independently with free choice.
- We encourage the children to care for their environment by making some cleaning equipment, dustpans and brushes, available for them to access and use independently to clean and tidy up play areas e.g. sweeping up spilt sand.

The outdoor environment

- We offer regular opportunities for children to play in a natural environment of grass, trees and bushes.
- We have daily opportunities for children to play outside, providing an open space where they can run and use other play equipment e.g. scooters, bicycles, push along cars, etc.
- We use the outdoor environment to offer a wide range of learning opportunities for investigation and exploration, thus developing all six areas of learning in the Foundation Stage.

The emotional environment

- The emotional environment is created by all the people in the setting. Adults have to ensure that it is warm and accepting to everyone.
- Adults need to empathise with children and support their emotions.
- When children feel confident in the environment they are willing to try things out; knowing that their efforts will be valued.
- When children know that their feelings are accepted they learn to express them and be confident that adults will help them to understand how they are feeling.

Display

- We create a rich and stimulating environment by using visual and interactive displays. Some of these displays will be at the children's eye level.
- We provide display areas for the children's own work e.g. paintings, drawings, writing and models.
- We ensure that displays are informative and relevant to all families within the local community.