

Howe Dell Day Care

Equipment Policy

Policy adopted in August 2007, to be reviewed May 2026

Aim

Our aim is to provide children with access to a wide range of safe and well-maintained furniture, equipment and toys that meets the varying needs of children to stimulate their enjoyment, learning and development for both indoors and outside. We believe that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents and staff. Parents (The term 'parent' implies any person or body with parental responsibility such as foster parent or carer)

Procedure

To provide a range of furniture, equipment and toys, which are kept clean, well maintained, and in good repair and conform to 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 carry a CE Marking. (Updated 7th November 2023)

Equipment will be appropriately maintained and inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Electrical toys and equipment will be subject to PAT – portable appliance testing.

All our equipment and resources will be selected with care and risk assessments carried out before new toys and equipment are used or purchased.

The levels of staff supervision will be sufficient to ensure that the safety of children is assured and set according to the type of equipment that is being used, along with the ages and number of children involved in a given activity.

All our equipment and resources are stored or stacked safely to prevent them accidentally falling or collapsing.

We leave receptacles upturned to prevent collection of rainwater. Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied and cleaned daily before children start playing outside.

Our outdoor sand pit within our small garden area is covered when not in use and is cleaned regularly. We ensure that sand inside and outside is clean and suitable for children's play.



The layout of our play equipment allows adults and children to move safely and freely between activities.

All our equipment is regularly checked for cleanliness and safety, and any dangerous items are repaired or discarded.

We make safe, and separate from general use any areas that are unsafe because a repair is needed, and this is reported to the Facilities Manager

All our materials, including paint and glue, are non-toxic.

Parents must ensure that any jewellery worn by children poses no danger, particularly earrings that may be pulled, bracelets, which can be caught when climbing, or necklaces that may pose a risk of strangulation.

There will be a selection of toys and equipment for children with Special Educational Needs, Physical Disabilities and English as a second language, and we will adapt equipment to their needs when needed.

All equipment and resources will reflect positive images with regard to culture, ethnicity, gender, and disability and for those who English is not their first language.

We encourage staff, children and parents to report any breakages.