**Busy Bodies Child Care Centre Ltd**

**Selecting Toys and Equipment**

**Toys and play equipment**

Toys and play equipment should be a source of fun and learning for every child in the setting. However, poorly designed toys, toys that are inappropriate for the child’s are, used incorrectly or in bad repair can lead to injury. Where toys are frequently shared between children they may also become a source of infection.

**Selecting toys**

Safety is our main consideration when selecting toys. Any toy or play equipment that we provide will carry a BS, BSI or CE mark, indicating that safety standards are being complied with. We also check the age guidance instructions on the packaging. If a toy is marked ‘not suitable for children under 3 years’ or carries a pictogram it means that the toy is not safe for children under 3 years old.

We avoid toys that have:

* Sharp points, jagged edges or rough surfaces.
* Small detachable or insecure parts that could be swallowed or become lodged in the throat nose or ears. Children can choke on latex ballons.
* Sharpe spikes or pins that could be exposed if a child pullls the toy apart.
* Long cords or strings. If the toy has a cord more than 12 inches long we would cut it shorter.
* Caps, guns and other toys that produce a very loud noise as that could damage hearing.
* Computer games and videos with flickering lights that may trigger fit in epileptic children.

If a member of staff thinks a toy is unsuitable then they should remove it from the nursery.

**Procedure**

* Check toys regularly for rough edges and breaks and discard any damaged toys.
* Remove dust regularly. Dust can trigger asthma attacks and harbour germs.
* Clean toys as frequently as practical and when visibly soiled
* Clean hard / plastic toys by washing them with water and detergent, followed by thorough rinsing and drying.
* Disinfect hard / plastic toys that cannot be washed, rinsed and dried thoroughly.
* Launder dirty soft toys in the washing machine, taking care to follow the manufacturer’s washing instructions.
* Store toys in a clean container or cupboard.
* Empty paddling pools after use and store deflated or inverted. Children can drown in small amounts of rainwater collected in them. Water activities must be closely supervised.
* Protect sandpits (indoor and outdoor) from contamination (e.g. by using a cover) and make sure the sand is clean by regular sieving for foreign bodies and rinsing with a diluted sterilising agent. Sandpits make tempting toilets for animals and are an ideal medium for transmission of germs.
* Carry our appropriate risk assessment on activities and the environment in which they take place.

This policy and procedure will be reviewed annually.

Updated on ………………………………………….. By …………………………………………………………..

This policy has been read, understood and signed by all the staff.

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