

# OCOSC

## TOY POLICY

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

When selecting or purchasing toys and play equipment O.C.O.S.C. will:

- Involve children in the decision making process.
- Consider the intellectual, social, cultural and physical development of the children.
- Check the recommended age suitability printed on the packaging.
- Consider the cost, durability, storage ease of maintenance.
- Check, that books and other materials show positive images of people of all backgrounds, cultures and abilities and that they avoid stereotyping.
- Ensure they offer the opportunity for fun and enjoyment.
- All must carry the B.S., B.S.I., or C.E. Mark which indicates that safety standards are being complied with.
- Think about the need for appropriate challenges to stimulate a child's inventiveness.

Storage and Access:

- Ensure equipment is stored safely and not piled up.
- Discourage children from bringing their own toys to Club; make clear to parents/carers O.C.O.S.C. cannot be responsible for children's toys or belongings.
- Check children of all ages and abilities can reach the toys and equipment they are able to use by themselves.
- Check children are able to select from a range of different toys to allow for free choice and independent play.
- Encourage children to share toys and equipment, take turns on popular games and show others how to use play equipment.
- Encourage children to invent their own games and toys and provide space and materials to allow for this.
- Keep more valuable toys and equipment (e.g. computers, TV's) away from view outside of Club hours and ensure that locks are adequate and store rooms and storage units are secure.
- Ensure adequate contents insurance.
- If using special equipment such as a bouncy castle, make sure written permission is obtained from parents.
- Sharp electrical and mechanical toys and equipment such as toaster, badge makers, irons and wire will need to be supervised.

Hygiene:

Toys can become contaminated with germs from un-washed hands, spills of body fluid, or by children putting their mouths on them. Although germs will not grow in the absence of water, some germs can survive on the surface of toys in sufficient numbers to present a risk of infection, children frequently put toys and other items in their mouths, therefore contaminated toys can become a source of infection in the childcare setting.

Ideally toys will be cleaned on a regular basis and where an illness is present at the setting extra cleaning will be necessary as a way of limiting further spreading. O.C.O.S.C. will prevent the spread of infection via toys by ensuring that:

- Toys are cleaned thoroughly on a regular basis.
- Hands are washed after handling contaminated toys.
- Soft modelling materials (e.g. Playdough) are replaced regularly.
- Children are discouraged from putting shared toys in their mouths.
- Useful items such as anti-bacterial wipes are available for instant cleaning.

Looking after toys and play equipment O.C.O.S.C. will:

- Encourage children to respect equipment, report broken or unsafe equipment and involve them in selecting new toys.
- Check toys and equipment for rough edges and breaks and discard ones that are damaged.
- Ensure that all toys are cleaned on a regular basis.
- Ensure extra cleaning of toys and equipment takes place if there is an illness in setting.
- Regularly remove dust as not to trigger asthma attacks.
- Wash hard plastic toys in water and detergent, then rinse thoroughly and dry.
- Launder dirty soft toys in a washing machine, taking care to follow manufacturer's instructions. Discard contaminated soft toys that cannot be washed.
- Immediately clean and disinfect toys that are contaminated with body fluids (e.g. blood, nasal discharge, eye discharge, saliva, urine, vomit and faeces).

DO NOT:

- Allow children to take toys to the toilet area.
- Put toys back into storage if they are dirty.

**Reviewed**

**Signed**

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