



Learning & Play Policy



At Teddy Bears, we are committed to creating a nurturing and engaging environment where every child can thrive. We greatly value the essential support and involvement of parents, caregivers, and the broader community, as these contributions enrich each child's journey and help them reach their full potential.

Our approach fosters respect for cultural diversity and integrates anti-bias and equal opportunity principles across our planning, activities, and attitudes toward learning and play.

Our Goals

- To offer a balanced and inclusive curriculum that promotes growth in all areas of a child's development.
- To design an engaging environment guided by the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework.
- To empower each child to gain self-esteem, skills, knowledge, and confidence as they prepare for the next steps in their learning journey, whether continuing in early years care or transitioning to school.
- To nurture children's self-esteem and independence as lifelong learners.
- To uphold principles of equality, inclusion, and anti-bias practices in every aspect of our programming.
- To build strong partnerships with parents and caregivers, fostering consistency and continuity in care and education for each child.
- To provide a safe, secure, and enriching space where children can learn and explore, supported by experienced practitioners.
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The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The EYFS defines the foundational years of a child's development, from birth to age five, preparing them for school and lifelong learning. At Teddy Bears, we support this growth through seven key areas of development, designed to cater to each child's unique needs.

The Three Prime Areas serve as essential foundations:

1. **Communication and Language**
2. **Physical Development**
3. **Personal, Social, and Emotional Development**

Building on these, **Four Specific Areas** help broaden a child's learning:

1. **Literacy**
2. **Mathematics**
3. **Understanding the World**
4. **Expressive Arts and Design**

Activities are tailored to support each child's individual needs, allowing them to flourish in a safe, inclusive environment.

Effective Learning Characteristics

Children in the EYFS benefit from play and exploration, active engagement, and critical thinking, supported both indoors and outdoors.

- **Playing and Exploring:** Encouraging curiosity and hands-on experiences.
- **Active Learning:** Supporting perseverance and enjoyment in accomplishments.

- **Creating and Thinking Critically:** Fostering independent ideas, connections, and problem-solving skills.

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Partnership with Parents and Caregivers

Recognizing parents and caregivers as a child's first teachers, we build a collaborative partnership that benefits from shared insights into each child's experiences, skills, and interests.

Child-Initiated Learning

At Teddy Bears, we embrace a "in-the-moment" approach, which encourages child-initiated play to capitalize on moments of engagement. Our practitioners closely observe each child to identify and build on these teachable moments. Activities and educational experiences are adapted to each child's natural curiosity and pace within a flexible framework.

Importance of Play

Play is fundamental to young children's learning. Through hands-on experiences, children experiment, gain knowledge, and develop new skills. Activities, resources, and flexible plans support this spontaneous learning, guided by the children's interests and needs.

Our Environment

Teddy Bears provides a safe, welcoming, and vibrant space, with rotating displays and activities that reflect the children's needs and interests. Weekly updates to our continuous provision ensure the environment remains engaging and suited to each child's growth.

Outdoor Play

Outdoor play is essential to children's physical and cognitive development. Our outdoor space is available year-round, offering safe, flexible resources that encourage imagination, problem-solving, and physical activity.

Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs

We recognize that children develop at individual rates and that some may require additional support. In collaboration with the Early Years inclusion team and parents, we identify and address any concerns swiftly, providing tailored support to each child. Regular monitoring and open communication with families enable us to respond promptly and effectively to each child's needs.

This policy was adopted by	Teddy Bears Childcare
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Name and role of signatory	Leahna Welch (Deputy Manager)