

Screen Use Policy

Purpose

At our nursery, we recognise that young children learn best through play, exploration, positive relationships and hands-on experiences. We are committed to ensuring that any use of screens supports children's learning and development and is always purposeful, age-appropriate and carefully managed.

This policy reflects the Department for Education's guidance on screen use in early years settings and supports the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). [Help for early years providers : Screen use](#)

Aims

We aim to:

- Promote children's learning through high-quality interactions and play-based experiences.
- Ensure any use of screens has a clear educational purpose.
- Minimise children's exposure to unnecessary screen time.
- Prioritise communication, language development, physical activity and social interaction.
- Work in partnership with parents to encourage healthy approaches to technology.

Our Approach to Screen Use

Screens are not part of our daily routine and are only used when they provide a clear benefit to children's learning or development.

Any screen use will:

- Have a specific educational objective linked to the EYFS.
- Be appropriate for the age, stage and needs of the children.
- Be carefully planned and supervised by a practitioner.
- Encourage discussion, questioning and interaction between adults and children.
- Be limited in duration.
- Never replace quality teaching, play or meaningful adult-child interactions.

Appropriate Uses of Screens

Technology may be used to:

- Support learning linked to a current topic or children's interests.
- Share high-quality stories, songs or rhymes.
- Enhance communication and language through discussion.



LITTLE FOOTSTEPS CHILDCARE

- Explore photographs, maps or short educational videos.
- Support children with additional needs where technology is beneficial.
- Introduce children to simple, age-appropriate technology under adult supervision.

We Will Not Use Screens

We will not:

- Use screens as a form of entertainment or to occupy children.
- Allow children to use tablets or other devices without adult supervision.
- Replace outdoor play, physical activity or creative experiences with screen-based activities.
- Expose children to inappropriate, fast-paced or overstimulating content.
- Use screens during mealtimes, sleep times or routine care activities.

Adult Interaction

Practitioners play an active role whenever screens are used.

Staff will:

- Remain with children throughout any screen-based activity.
- Ask questions and encourage conversation.
- Extend children's thinking and vocabulary.
- Link screen content to real-life experiences and play opportunities.
- End screen use promptly once the learning objective has been achieved.

Staff Use of Personal Devices

To ensure children's safety and maintain high-quality interactions:

- Personal mobile phones and smart devices must not be used in areas where children are present, except in line with the nursery's Mobile Phone Policy. Devices are to be kept in the staffroom only.
- Nursery devices will only be used for professional purposes such as observations, planning or educational activities.
- Staff must ensure technology does not distract from supervision or engagement with children.

Partnership with Parents

We believe parents play an important role in supporting healthy screen habits.

We will:

- Share information about our approach to screen use.
- Encourage families to balance screen time with play, reading, conversation and physical activity.



LITTLE FOOTSTEPS CHILDCARE

- Signpost parents to reliable guidance where appropriate.
- Discuss any concerns regarding children's screen use sensitively and supportively.

Inclusion

We recognise that technology can provide valuable support for some children, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Any adaptations will be carefully considered to meet individual needs while continuing to promote active learning and meaningful interaction.

Monitoring

The Nursery Manager and leadership team will monitor the implementation of this policy through:

- Regular observations of practice.
- Staff supervision and training.
- Curriculum monitoring.
- Feedback from children, parents and staff.
- Policy review in line with updates to EYFS requirements and Department for Education guidance.