



Policy - Screen time policy

Title: Screen time policy

Category: Activities

Review Date: 3rd Oct 2022

Description:

At our nursery screen time is not promoted and not the first choice for supporting learning and development of children, however we recognize that the use of screens and media is helpful to support children's learning and development in certain areas and subjects.

We live in times when children cannot escape exposure to screen media and we wish to be able to teach children how to responsibly and sensibly use their screen time. At the nursery we wish to explain children that there is a limit to the time we are screens and we stop when we reach a limit on the time.

Motion pictures and screen media has also some good quality content that can support learning and other arts and crafts activities that we run at the nursery. Screen media content can support the development of children in areas of Personal Social Emotional Development by engaging in making friends and managing emotions, it also encourages a lot of Communication and language development and helps children make conversations with their peers. Children also start to role-play and enact what they watch and lead to the development of Expression and Understanding of the World.

While at the same time we do not wish to spend a lot of the time of children at the nursery on screens. We recognize that children at home do use screens and therefore at the nursery we wish for children to spend time in other activities that do not involve screen time.

We therefore do not intend to use screen time at the nursery for long duration and monitor responsible use of screen time in our daily routines. We only ever want to use screen media to support us in important story telling and communication with children

Overall our limits that we wish to observe at the nursery are:

- Children under 2 should have no screen time. We recommend the same for home.
- Children aged 2 to 5 at the nursery will have a limit of 30 minutes of screen time in any session of 3 hours.

We shall follow the below while using screens as a medium for activities at our nursery:

- We shall limit any screen time for the children to a limit of 15 minutes in any one time for the children.
- We will only ever watch material that is Rated G: General Audiences - All ages admitted. Nothing that would offend parents for viewing by children. This shall ensure there is no sex, nudity, drug use or strong language. Please check the meaning of the ratings at <https://www.care.com/c/stories/4797/how-to-use-movie-ratings-for-kids/>
- We shall often let the parents know about the content that their children would be watching at the nursery if it is not one listed below. This will give parents an opportunity to review and also be able to watch with their children at home.
- We shall review and pre-check / pre-screen the content that the children would be watching and make a plan of activities around the content. The activity plans around the screen time shall be available for parents to review and read on babys days.
- We shall be using the below from time to time:

- o Alphablocks,
- o Numberjacks,
- o BBC Bite Size Videos,
- o BBC Teach (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3g0y36ZHRT3lmHP2rYnKpXg/about-bbc-teach>).
- o Twinkl (<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>) multi award winning education resource and the official education partner for children in need.
- o You Tube for selective songs and education content.

Parents are welcome to advise us if they do not wish for their child to engage in the screen time and we shall make every effort to engage their children in alternative activities. However, we would like to discuss the reservations and make changes to our plan to provide for an inclusive activity for children where all in a cohort are engaged and involved.

Parents are welcome and requested to discuss their views with their Key person, Room Leaders and Manager.

We shall always review the latest guidance on screen time and review our practice.

References: Guidelines issued on activity and screen time for babies and toddlers (<https://www.nhs.uk/news/pregnancy-and-child/who-guidelines-screen-time/>)

Appendix 1. Weekly Monitoring of Screen Time Form

Instructions: This form should be on a clip board in the room next to the screen always. Staff in the room are required to put details of each use of screen and monitor for children in the form below. Any staff intending to use the screens or monitor should refer to the last screen time and ensure that they do not have another screen time within the span of 2 hours of last one.

Room leader should submit this to the office at end of each week.

Date Time From Time To Description

(Source and details of what was watched) Staff Signature