

Messy Play Policy

At Little Learners, children are actively encouraged to participate in messy play activities.

Messy play activities are linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and actively promote children's creative and sensory development.

Purpose of Messy Play:

- The tactile experience gained during messy play helps children to experience new and unfamiliar textures in a fun and exciting way.
- Helps child develop creative and sensory skills.
- Helps children develop fine motor skills and hand and eye co-ordination.
- Develops communication and language skills through the expression of feelings, thoughts and findings to others.
- Helps children build a healthy relationship with food.

Risk assessment

- Mess play activities are risk assessed and supervised. Utensils and other equipment used during activities are regularly cleaned and dietary requirements, allergies, culture and religion are taken into consideration when planning messy play.
- Activities involving messy play are planned so they are age appropriate, and related to the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Messy activities may include the use of:

• Cooking	• Play doh
• Cornflour	• Salt doh
• Foods – oats, beans, cream, pasta, rice, pulses, cereals, spaghetti, sugar, flour, ice	• Sand and water
• Glue	• Saving foam
• Mud	• Slime
• Paint	• Soap flakes

This policy meets the requirements of the Statutory Framework for the EYFS 1st September 2021.

Date policy last reviewed/updated	26 th September 2022	Reviewed by	Julia Ward, Head of Support Services
Date of next review/update	September 2023		

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