

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 children 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

Children will be supervised at all times during messy play activities and appropriate staff:child ratios will be maintained in accordance with EYFS requirements.

Children and staff will follow appropriate handwashing and hygiene procedures before and after messy play activities. Equipment and resources will be cleaned and maintained in accordance with the nursery's health and safety procedures.

Messy play activities are risk assessed and supervised. Utensils and other equipment used during activities are regularly cleaned. Dietary requirements, allergies, intolerances, cultural needs and religious requirements will be considered when planning messy play activities. Alternative materials will be provided where necessary to ensure children can participate safely and inclusively.

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 dough
• Cornflour	• Salt dough
• Foods – oats, beans, cream, pasta, rice, pulses, cereals, spaghetti, sugar, flour, ice	• Sand and water
• Glue	• Nappy Snow
• Mud	• Slime
• Paint	• Soap Flakes
• Glitter	



This policy complies with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework, effective from 1 September 2026.

Date policy last reviewed/updated	25 th August 2026	Reviewed by	Terri Noone - Interim Regional Nursery Manager Jodie Richards – Nursery Manager Charlie Walton – Nursery Manager
Date of next review/update	August 2027		