

Television and Games Consoles Policy

Rationale

I believe that watching television in certain conditions can aid young children’s attention, comprehension and vocabulary. Research has shown that having a television on as background noise can be detrimental to a child’s play and concentration and reduce the learning of new vocabulary. I believe that access to screen-based games can help to develop skills such as hand-eye co-ordination and turn taking. However, I feel that these should be limited in order to encourage children to participate in a wide variety of experiences, which help build their all-round development. I aim to limit the use of television and games consoles carefully to ensure that children’s learning is aided and not compromised.

Procedure

I ensure that programmes available to children are suitable for their age and stage of development and will discuss with parents/carers their wishes for the programmes they are happy for their child to view. Likewise, children will be permitted to play screen-based games providing the game is intended for their age. All screen time will be intentional, following the Digital 5 A Day framework (https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/digital/5-a-day/ ) and age based recommendations, including the NHS recommendation of 2 hours per day upper limit for children. I request that devices with access to media and games are discussed with me before being brought into the setting to agree on restrictions and appropriate use, and ensure that any content viewed will be suitable for other children attending.

I aim to always watch any media with young children so that we can talk about the programme afterwards and I can model any new vocabulary gained. Viewing time is limited and media is switched off as soon as the programme is finished or when children lose interest.

A very small percentage of people may experience photosensitive epileptic seizures when exposed to certain visual images, including flashing lights or patterns that may appear in video games. If a child is vulnerable to these seizures then such media will not be watched/played with whilst this child is present.

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