**Equipment and Resources Policy**

The toys and equipment in preschool provide opportunities for children, with adult help, to develop new skills and concepts in the course of their play and exploration.

We will:

* provide play equipment and resources that are safe and – where applicable - conforms to all relevant safety regulations – BSEN safety standards or Toys (Safety) Regulations (1995) and is sound and well-made
* provide toys, equipment and resources which are appropriate for the ages and stages of the children
* provide sufficient quantity of equipment and resources for the number of children
* provide made, natural and recycled materials that are clean, in good condition and safe for the children to use
* provide resources that promotes all areas of children’s learning and development, both child-led or adult-led
* provide furniture that is suitable for children and furniture that is suitable for adults
* store and display resources and equipment where children can independently choose and select them
* regularly check all resources and equipment that are available at each session and ensure they are put away at the end of each session. We repair and clean, or replace, any unsafe, worn out, dirty or damaged equipment
* encourage free play is well provided for with role-play equipment, resources for small world play, gross and fine motor skill opportunities and range of natural materials which can be used in a variety of ways and encourages an open-ended approach to creativity and problem solving etc.
* maintain books for individuals and groups, a variety of textured cushions and blankets to provide a rest/quiet/sleep area for children
* encourage outside play in the enclosed garden area and adjacent woodland and heath allows for supervised walks. Children will always have the opportunity to play outside unless the weather is adverse
* not follow a formal structure. Weekly planning is based on child observations. Spontaneous child led activities and requests are carried out where possible during sessions
* allow children freedom of access to activities, resources and equipment that offers challenges to developing social, personal and cognitive skills
* plan the provision of activities and appropriate resources so that a balance of familiar equipment and resources and new exciting challenges is offered
* ensure Playschool features positive images of people, both male and female, from a range of ethnic and cultural groups, with and without disabilities
* enable children, with adult support, to develop individual potential and move towards required learning outcomes. The Preschool follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum guidance framework issued by the QCA

*This policy is reviewed annually by Martlesham Preschool Committee*