

**Bollington Preschool**

**Children’s Belongings and Toys from Home Policy**

**Statement**

Settling into child care can often be an emotional and distressing time for children and their families. Children may initially feel insecure in a new environment filled with adults, children and experiences that are unfamiliar to them.

At Bollington Preschool, we believe that the key to successfully transitioning a child from home to care or room to room is founded in key worker relationships, communication, empathy and the establishment of consistent routines.

We understand that a child may have an emotional attachment to a personal belonging from home, such as a toy or blanket and accept that this item may be instrumental to the child’s feeling of emotional wellbeing and sense of belonging while in care in our setting. Our practitioners are committed to settling your child into the setting with the use of familiar ‘comforters’

Toys brought from home can cause conflict between children in care. Children can also be devastated to have their favourite toy misplaced or damaged. For these reasons our setting adopts this Children’s Belongings and Toys from Home Policy.

**Standards and Procedures**

• We request that families clearly label all items that come into Preschool, in order for staff to correctly identify your child’s belongings and to ensure they are returned. Unmarked items will be placed into lost property (this is a white bin next to the entrance) and we ask families to check this regularly for missing items.

The setting seeks families understanding when items are lost. Practitioners will take all care possible to minimise lost items but ask families to be aware of the amount of children at the setting each day and the priority of the practitioner to be caring for and educating children.

Excessive time cannot be allocated to searching for lost items as this compromises the amount of time spent on other more important tasks.

Lost property items that remain uncollected at the end of each month will be donated to a local charity.

• Parents / carers of children who bring special belongings into Preschool will be asked to place them in a special “toys from home” box to reduce the likelihood of them becoming lost or broken. However, we must make it clear that whilst all care is taken, Bollington Preschool are not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen items.

• Encourage children to talk at group time about their special toy or personal belonging. This practice will encourage a child’s social development, enable a child to vocalise thoughts, fears and feelings, broaden the cultural and social backgrounds of all children involved in group time activities, assist in the development of language skills and provide an opportunity for development of special interests for the group. Please speak with your child’s keyworker to arrange a ‘Show and Tell’ opportunity.

• We will provide a range of educational resources for your child’s use daily.

• We will discourage toys from home being brought to the Preschool on a regular basis unless they are essential to a child’s emotional wellbeing and/or sense of belonging.

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| This policy was adopted by  Bollington Preschool |
| On 17/06/2017 |
| Date to be reviewed  16/06/2018 |
| Signed on behalf of the provider |
| Name of signatory Shirley Sugden |
| Role of signatory   Manager |
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