

Toys from Home Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

At Eastwood Heights OOSH (the Service) we understand that it is natural that children wish to carry familiar toys with them and to show their friends items they consider precious. It has been our experience, however, that bringing toys from home to school can create difficult situations to manage. Hence we request that children do NOT bring toys from home into the Service.

PROCEDURE

Children have a natural desire to bring their own toys to school. However, doing so often causes conflict between peers that they are unable to cope with or resolve amicably. Children have difficulty sharing a special toy BUT they have an equally difficult time choosing to put it away instead. Other children may feel upset or anxious when someone else has a special toy and they don't. Bringing toys into the Service can also cause unhealthy competition amongst the children, eg "My truck is cooler than yours" and can, moreover, be used as a power/control source, eg "You can't play with my Barbie, you're not my friend", or "If you don't let me have it, you can't come to my birthday party".

We therefore request that children do NOT bring toys from home into the Service, but rather wait for the opportunity for sharing their own things when friends visit their home. If a child brings a toy from home (other than where authorised by the Nominated Supervisor – see below), educators will request that the parent takes it with them. If this is not possible the child will be asked to put the toy away in their bag. If the child is unable to leave the toy in their bag then an educator will temporarily confiscate the toy and place it in a cupboard for safekeeping.

Exceptions to the policy that children not bring toys into the Service will occasionally be made to accommodate temporary toy crazes (eg Pokemon, Bey Blades) or children who have special needs (temporary or long-term). However, these exceptions are to be approved by the Nominated Supervisor beforehand. For example, where a toy craze is extremely popular amongst the majority of children at the Service, or where the benefits to a particular child from bringing their own comfort source to school outweigh the foreseeable disadvantages, then the situation will be allowed for and carefully managed by educators at the Service.

Staff at the Service will not be responsible for lost or broken toys from home.

Service policies

- Behaviour Management Policy

DATE ENDORSED: April 2017

DATE FOR REVIEW AND EVALUATION: October 2018