



## Screens & ICT Policy

### Use of technology (ICT)

Part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum that we provide includes giving children the opportunity to access technology. ICT includes all current technologies in the world around young children today; it is therefore not exclusively about computer use but includes everyday technologies such as answer phones and washing machines, programmable toys and remote controls as well as other technological tools such as digital cameras, laminators and scanners.

By creating opportunities to investigate, try and experience technology in the classroom, and outside environment, children will learn for themselves whilst being taught skills and knowledge to enable them to build on what they know. By carefully planning our areas of learning to reflect the world in which we live, children will, through play, gain experience and an understanding of ICT.

We employ a range of strategies and use our professional judgment to decide on the most appropriate styles of teaching and learning. To enable the child to become a confident and independent user of ICT, we use a balance of:

- Demonstration, modelling, discussion and presenting
- Peer to peer teaching and collaboration
- Planned learning opportunities
- A learning environment that encourages and enables children's spontaneous use of ICT
- Time for independent use with opportunities to experiment and explore
- Opportunities to play with all forms of appropriate technology

We aim to provide the children access to ICT in the following ways:

- CD player with headphones and story book
- Interactive tablets - such as tablets without a screen that conveys facts verbally when you press buttons or light up interactive tablets for mark making
- Programmable toys such as our robot Beebot
- Non-functioning pieces of technology which children can use for role play
- A variety of interactive toys

## Screen time

At our nursery screen time is not promoted and not the first choice for progressing the children in their learning and development, we do however recognise that the use of screens and media is helpful to support children's learning and development in certain areas and subjects.

iPads / screens are never offered to the children for free time or exploration. They are only ever used within a group activity and not as the main focus, but instead to aid teaching when it adds additional benefits e.g. watching a spider spin its web or a sped up life cycle clip.

We shall be using the below from time to time:

- Twinkl - multi award winning education resource and the official education partner for children in need.
  - Used for short educational clips relating to topic work
- You Tube
  - Selective songs e.g. songs in Spanish classes (not for the children to watch, but to listen and sing along to)
  - Educational content / short video clips
    - E.g sped up life cycles
    - Videos of animals in nature to observe growth, movement, or habitat
- BBC iPlayer
  - Adaptations of well-known children's story books
    - We tend to look at this around world book day as a special occasion, focussing on reading the original story and then looking at the animated version. The educational purpose is to discuss differences in the plot, how words can be taken to create illustrations in books and also to then create animation / film. An adult is always sitting at the front during this activity discussing as we progress. As well as the main objectives above there are also indirect objectives such as discussing emotions etc. As an extension on this activity, we then encourage the children to choose a book and create their own simple illustrations.

Parents are welcome to advise us if they do not wish for their child to engage in any of the forms of screen time outline above and we shall make every effort to engage their children in alternative activities. However, we would like to discuss any reservations and make changes to our plan to provide for an inclusive activity for children where all in a cohort are engaged and involved.

Parents are welcome and requested to discuss their views with the nursery Manager. We shall always review the latest guidance on screen time and review our practice accordingly.