



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN THE EARLY YEARS POLICY

Toptotz Nursery will aim to encourage the children to appreciate and value the environment within which they live and play by doing our best to work to the following policy:

The prepared environment

- Will include wall displays at child height
- Will include child size furniture and equipment
- Will be aesthetically pleasing
- Will be arranged in ways to help children feel secure and confident.

Children's control over their play/work environment

- Children will have choice in their involvement in activities
- Equipment will be arranged so that children will be able to access it easily
- Arrangement of time and space will be flexible so that children have some control
- Children's own work will be given space
- Activities can be open ended so that children can use them creatively.

Natural materials

- There will be a good balance of manufactured toys and natural materials for the children to explore.
- Sand and water play will be made available.
- A wide variety of natural materials will be made available frequently.
- Themes and topics chosen will link with the natural world.

Outdoors

- The outdoor area will be used effectively to observe and explore the natural world.
- Children will be allowed to play outdoors as often as possible, in all seasons.
- Children will always wear appropriate clothing while outdoors.
- Indoor activities will reflect the outdoor environment as far as possible.

Care of living things

- Children will be involved in growing bulbs, seeds and in the care of plants.
- Stories will be chosen to reinforce the concept of care for living things
- Staff will at all times be positive role models in their respect for living things.