



Abbey Wood Grange Day Nursery

Messy Play Policy

Abbey Wood Grange has adopted this messy play policy to reflect our commitment to ensuring that all the children in our care have quality play opportunities.

For adults, messy play can be a lot of work and feel stressful. However, there are many benefits to messy play. Early childhood education experts say that play is the work of the child. This is true for all children, but especially for babies and toddlers.

At Abbey Wood Grange all children are actively encouraged to participate in "Messy Play" activities. We ensure "Messy Play" activities are age appropriate and are linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage, which actively promotes their creative and sensory development. Children learn to explore and experiment using all their senses. They can feel and smell and mix to see what happens next, having fun while they learn! Messy play encourages children to become little scientists learning about the properties of different materials as they play with them and they have so much fun while they do it!

Messy play stimulates the senses. The tactile experience gained during messy play helps little ones experience a variety of textures. During messy play, babies and toddlers are developing eye hand coordination and fine motor skills. What looks like a mess on the surface is truly a learning experience for your child.

Messy Play activities at Abbey Wood Grange are always carefully organised and materials used are thoroughly inspected to ensure the safety and well being of the children. We always check for allergies and dietary requirements before engaging in messy play with food.

Listed below are materials we use for "Messy Play" activities at Abbey Wood Grange:

- Water
- Cornflour
- Cereal
- Sand
- Dried or cooked Rice and Pasta
- Jelly (made up with water and allowed to set)
- Ice
- Soil and Stones
- Flour
- Foam
- Gel
- Hay/straw

The children are able to explore different textures freely on either large trays (builders) on the floor or in smaller trays on low tables indoors or outdoors (weather permitting).

All activities are carefully supervised to ensure the children's Health and Welfare are top priority at all times. Utensils and other equipment used are cleaned and/or sterilised after each use and the children are encouraged not to put play equipment into their mouths, although sometimes this is unavoidable.