

These are some of the areas we have in Class 1's classroom. They may not always be in the same place but the same type of resources to play with will be there.

Mrs Wilson, Miss Hunter and I observe all the time to see what sort of things the children are playing with. If they are no longer playing in one of the areas, we then move the furniture and areas around and maybe add some different resources. The children think it's something new and begin playing with it again. Our classroom evolves as the year goes on and we constantly take account of what is happening. We make the changes to ensure the children are always engaged and the staff take account of new research and ideas as the year goes on to maximise the learning taking place.



Although in September we may have to limit the quantity of resources we have available in order to keep it clean under current guidance we will have the same things out for the children to independently access themselves.



Yes, that is a cat tower in the second picture. We don't have a class cat but we do find that it is great for small world play as it has lots of different levels and little 'houses' on the levels which are great for using toys on like animals and dinosaurs. We add lights to it too.





Lots of our resources are what we call 'open ended' items. There are lots of plain wooden blocks and plain peg people. There are lots of natural materials and 'loose parts' like shells, corks, pebbles, pieces of wood, glass nuggets, buttons and planks. This helps imagination and children can build whatever they want. There are plenty of areas to construct and explore.





As you may notice in some of the other photos we use a lot of 'authentic' resources. We have stopped using a lot of plastic resources (though we do still have some) and replaced them with real items. For example, instead of plastic tea sets we use real china ones that we have found at car boot sales or charity shops. Plastic tea sets can be thrown around, jumped on, scratched, chewed etc and they will not be destroyed so children often

don't treat the resources with as much respect. Whilst we do have some breakages children feel more 'grown up' using real resources and begin to learn to treat the resources much more carefully after staff have modelled how to do so. Instead of shop bought dressing up clothes like Disney Princesses or Super Heroes we use items we have sourced like vintage dresses, waistcoats, coloured fabrics, hats and bags that children use to create their own roles as their imagination allows. Whilst there is nothing wrong with princess or superhero costumes it limits their imagination a little more as they are often 'reduced' to just being that character. Give them a piece of fabric and they can turn it into anything they want it to be - a cape, a cloak, a dress, whatever their imagination desires. We have lots of authentic resources displayed around the classroom on the walls, some of which you can see in the very first picture which opens up discussion and increases vocabulary.

We add what we call 'enhancements' to the areas based on the books we are reading, topics we are covering or the children's interests which aren't there all the time but match what is happening in that moment.

We are always looking for metal, wooden or china objects, ornaments and curios that spark the children's imagination so if you have any items you know longer want and think might be suitable please let us know.

There are more areas in our classroom that aren't pictured but hopefully this gives you some idea of what is available. We try and make the classroom look as natural and inviting as possible. If you have any further questions, please email me and I will try my best to answer them.

Mrs James