GEMS TINEY HOME NURSERY

HOME FROM HOME CHILDCARE

Television and Games Consoles Policy

Purpose and approach

At Gems tiney Home Nursery, conversation, relationships, play and real experiences form the children's day. Television and consoles are not part of our daily routine. Any occasional screen activity has a clear learning purpose, is brief and involves an adult taking part with the children.

We have regard to current Department for Education screen use guidance as required by the EYFS. This policy covers children's use of televisions, consoles, tablets, phones and other screens. Necessary adult work on approved phones for photos, the tiney app, communication or emergencies follows our device and safeguarding policies. Adults keep this use brief and maintain supervision and interaction.

Age and individual needs

Under two years, we avoid screen time except for exceptional circumstances such as a supported video call with a parent or carer. For ages two to five, the guidance is no more than one hour a day overall, and less where possible. This includes home use; it is not an allowance of one hour at nursery. We discuss family routines and keep any setting use occasional and well below that amount.

Screen based assistive technology for communication or SEND is considered individually with parents and relevant professionals. These essential aids are not subject to ordinary recreational screen limits and are not withheld as a reward or punishment. Support is based on need, without waiting for a diagnosis.

Choosing and using content

Gemma approves content before use. It must be developmentally suitable for the youngest child who can see or hear it, with a clear purpose and manageable pace. We prefer predictable, advert free material and disable autoplay, scrolling, chat, purchases and other unnecessary online features. Age ratings are a starting point, not proof of suitability.

Films shown to early years children are U rated and individually checked; games must have a suitable PEGI rating and content for the children involved. A game's online features can introduce risks beyond its rating. We do not permit open online multiplayer, contact with strangers or unfiltered browsing. Children do not use generative AI tools or AI enabled toys in the setting.

An adult watches or plays alongside children, talks about the content and helps them make connections with real activities. Children can choose a screen free alternative. Screens are never used to occupy children while adults complete other work, manage behaviour, calm distress or replace responsive care.

Healthy routines

We keep screens off in the background, at meals and during settling for sleep, and avoid viewing within the hour before a planned sleep period. Rainy weather is not a reason for routine viewing; we offer active indoor play and other suitable alternatives.

Any session is short, with a clear end. We monitor comfort, sound level, posture and children's reactions and stop if it causes distress or overstimulation. Screen use does not displace sleep, outdoor time, physical activity, stories or interaction. No child is required to complete screen tasks for routine developmental assessment.

Devices security and family partnership

Children do not bring personal entertainment devices for routine use. Any exceptional or assistive use is agreed individually. Accounts, parental controls and software are maintained securely; adult accounts and payment details are inaccessible. Children's images or personal information are not entered into unapproved apps.

We tell parents how screens may be used, listen to preferences and share practical advice without judgement. Unexpected exposure to inappropriate content is stopped, recorded and discussed with parents as appropriate; safeguarding or data concerns follow the relevant procedures.

Gemma briefs assistants and reviews this policy annually or sooner if guidance or children's needs change. References: current EYFS childminder framework; DfE Screen

use guidance for early years providers; government Best Start in Life screen guidance; BBFC and PEGI classification information.

Policy owner: Gemma Bayley
Reviewed: November 2026
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