



Equipment Safety Policy

Policy Statement

Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock is committed to providing safe, clean and age-appropriate equipment for all babies attending sessions. The safety of babies and their caregivers is paramount, and all reasonable steps are taken to ensure equipment is suitable, well maintained and used appropriately.

Due to the parent-accompanied nature of sessions, parents and caregivers remain responsible for supervising their baby and supporting safe use of equipment at all times.

Suitable Equipment

All equipment used at Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock is selected to be appropriate for babies aged 0–13 months. Equipment is chosen with consideration for:

- Age suitability
- Developmental appropriateness
- Stability and safety
- Non-toxic materials
- Soft or padded surfaces where appropriate
- Absence of small detachable parts
- Ease of cleaning
- Overall condition and durability

Equipment that is not suitable for babies in this age range will not be used.

Equipment Checks

All equipment is visually checked before each session. These checks include:

- Damage or wear and tear
- Loose parts
- Sharp edges
- Stability of larger items
- Cleanliness
- Safety of soft play items
- Suitability for the planned activity

Any equipment considered unsafe will be removed immediately and not used until repaired or replaced.

Setup and Layout

Equipment is set up to minimise risk and allow safe movement. This includes:

- Spacing items appropriately
- Avoiding overcrowding
- Positioning soft play safely
- Keeping walkways clear
- Avoiding trip hazards
- Securing mats where possible
- Keeping heavier items stable



The layout may be adjusted throughout the session to maintain safety.

Soft Play Equipment

Soft play equipment is used to support safe exploration and movement. The following precautions are taken:

- Soft play checked for damage before use
- Items positioned on appropriate flooring
- Stacking kept to safe heights
- Unstable arrangements avoided
- Wet or soiled items removed
- Equipment cleaned regularly

Parents must supervise their baby when using soft play equipment.

Sensory Equipment

Sensory items are used to support development and engagement. These may include lights, textures, fabrics and small props. Safety measures include:

- Items checked for loose parts
- Materials suitable for babies
- No sharp or hazardous components
- Removal of damaged items
- Supervision when items are explored

Parents should monitor babies who mouth sensory items.

Handling and Manual Safety

Care is taken when transporting and setting up equipment. This includes:

- Using safe lifting techniques
- Avoiding heavy lifting where possible
- Setting up equipment before families enter
- Removing equipment safely at end of session
- Ensuring equipment is stable before use

Cleaning of Equipment

Equipment is cleaned regularly in line with hygiene procedures. This includes:

- Wiping down hard surfaces
- Cleaning toys between sessions where necessary
- Removing visibly soiled items
- Washing soft materials where appropriate
- Sanitising mats

Items that cannot be effectively cleaned will not be used.



Damaged Equipment

If equipment becomes damaged:

- It will be removed immediately
- Not used until repaired or replaced
- Checked before returning to use
- Recorded if necessary

Safety will always take priority over continuing use.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents and caregivers are responsible for:

- Supervising their baby at all times
- Supporting safe use of equipment
- Preventing unsafe behaviour
- Not allowing climbing beyond intended use
- Informing of any concerns
- Following session guidance

Babies must not be left unattended on equipment.

Use of Personal Items

Parents may bring personal items such as blankets or toys. These remain the responsibility of the parent/carer. Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock is not responsible for the safety or condition of personal items.

Removal of Equipment

Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock reserves the right to remove equipment at any time if it is considered unsafe, unsuitable or if behaviour presents a risk to others.

Commitment

Play, Learn, Grow! Cannock is committed to maintaining safe, suitable and well-maintained equipment to support enjoyable and developmentally appropriate sessions for babies and their families. Cooperation from parents and caregivers helps ensure equipment is used safely by all attendees.

Date of Policy: April 2026

Date of Policy Renewal: April 2027

Signed: Rebecca Marfell

8th April 2026