



Cumbria Family Support Ltd

Provision of Toys, Games, and Play Materials

Cumbria Family Support,
The Office,
Mardale Road,
Penrith,
CA11 9EH
Tel: 01768 593102

www.cumbriafamilysupport.org.uk

Toy Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

Cumbria family Support is committed to providing a safe environment for parents and children visiting our offices and Child Contact Centres. This policy will ensure that all toys / games used by children, their families are clean and fit for purpose. The guidance within this policy is evidence based and reflects best practice.

2. Aims

This policy will assist CFS to:

- Ensure all toys / games for use are fit for purpose;
- Ensure all toys / games are cleaned appropriately and stored correctly before and after use;
- Ensure all toys / games are checked at the beginning of every session for signs of damage or wear and tear.

3. Introduction

Toys and games are an important resource routinely within our Child Contact Centres and on occasion, when families are seen in a CFS building. It is vital that consideration is given to what is provided.

A variety of toys and games should be provided appropriate to a range of ages, abilities and reflecting diversity. We will provide a range of toys, and not display expectations around toys / play materials being specific to a particular 'gender'.

An integral role of our Child Contact Centres and our Family Support Services is to promote positive parent-child relationships. Many toys and games encourage positive parent-child interaction, for example blowing bubbles with a toddler, imaginative play, ball games; for older children, games like Jenga and cards, computer games, pool; craft activities can be made appropriate to a range of ages and abilities.

Toys must be clean and meet BS EN 71 standards (see full description [here](#)).

4. Responsibilities

All staff and volunteers within must follow this policy.

Paid staff must¹:

- Ensure that volunteers are aware of the contents of this policy.
- Ensure that all toys / games used in the Contact Centres (or after any sessions with families in CFS offices) are clean after each use.
- Centre Coordinators (and for CFs offices, the Business Manager or agreed local colleagues) must review twice a year all toys / games / play materials to ensure they are compliant with this policy.

¹ i.e. Contact Centre Coordinators or Family Support staff bringing children into CFS offices using toys

5. Criteria

Toys / games selection and purchase: Toys/games with hard surfaces (plastic, vinyl, varnished or painted wood, metal) must be able to be thoroughly cleaned. Toys / games with fabric parts are permissible but not preferable. Any fabric parts must be machine washable.

Electrical games must be subject to annual PAT testing. No imitation guns or knives will be bought/used.

Donations of toys and games: Brand new toys and games may be received from members of the public but nothing second hand, even if they are in good condition.

6. Steps to be taken

Staff or volunteers who are present will examine each toy / game either prior or after each session to ensure that it is fit for use, i.e. check that it is clean, check for broken parts / faults / loose wiring or replacement batteries etc.