

## Policy for Nature Based Play Items

Before bringing Nature Based Items into the classroom to be available for the children to use in arts and crafts/ visual discussion or a guided activity one on one it must be inspected and determined to be safe.

### The following questions will be asked.

- Are feces visible on the item?
- Is it or has it been infested with insects/bugs?
- Is it mouldy and/or rotten
- Is it jagged/sharp?

If the item is deemed unsafe it will not be allowed to enter the classroom.

### Once we bring a nature based item into the classroom it will follow the following procedure.

If the nature based item cannot be laundered or cleaned and disinfected it must be rotated out of the classroom based on the frequency chart below.

Once the item has been rotated out of the classroom, it must be either:

- Removed and discarded, or placed outdoors
- Removed and stored for at least two weeks (if not wet/mouthed/damaged)
- **If the item is wet or mouthed it must be immediately discarded**

Nature Based Play Frequency Chart		
	Toddler	Preschool
<b>No Illness</b>	<b>Items In Class/Group Activity One on One Activity WEEKLY</b> Arts and Crafts Visual/Show and Tell/ Discussion Guided activity/Learning Centre Free Play (items left in class) Sensory	<b>Items in Class/Group Activity One on One Activity WEEKLY</b> Arts and Crafts Visual/Show and Tell/ Discussion Guided activity/Learning Centre Free Play (items left in class) Sensory
<b>Suspect Outbreak</b>	<b>Viewing Only OR One on One Activity DAILY</b> Arts and Crafts Visual/Show and Tell/ Discussion Guided activity one on one	<b>Viewing Only OR One on One Activity DAILY</b> Arts and Crafts Visual/Show and Tell/ Discussion Guided activity in Small Groups (supervised)
<b>Outbreak</b>	<b>No Nature Based Items</b>	

Rotation of Nature Based Items used by the children in the Toddler or Preschool classes will be rotated WEEKLY (if not wet, mouthed, or damaged) If the preschool is in suspect OUTBREAK, all free play and sensory nature based items will be removed and discarded or stored until the outbreak is declared over.

All of our fixtures such as baskets/containers and shelving are made of a material that can be cleaned and disinfected and are done so on a regular basis according to Public Health Policies.

Our nature based items used to decorate the preschool are kept out of the reach of children and do not need to be cleaned or disinfected.