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 **Brambles Community Pre-school**

**7.3 Messy Play policy**

**Policy statement**

At Brambles Community Pre-school all the children are given the opportunity to participate in messy play activities throughout most of the day. Early childhood education experts say that play is the work of the child. This is true for all children, but especially for babies and toddlers.

**Procedures**

* It is important that you dress your child appropriately for pre-school, old clothes that can get messy. We advise that you do not send your child in clothes that you do not want to get messy.
* Children get messy and wet when they play. We provide protective clothing for them to wear over clothes. We encourage them to wear it but we cannot enforce it.
* We teach Children how to minimise how messy they get and they do get better as they get older, but it is part of their learning and development – you cannot expect them to not get messed up exploring our messy activities.
* We will not compromise on allowing children to play with messy activities as we believe it to be an essential component of a young child’s learning and development.
* Children must be allowed to experience the world around them in a full, messy, muddy, wet environment if they are to make useful meaning of it.
* All children are actively encouraged to participate in “Messy Play” activities. We ensure “Messy Play” activities are age appropriate and are linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage, which actively promotes their creative and sensory development.
* Children learn to explore and experiment using all their senses. They can feel and smell and mix to see what happens next, having fun while they learn!
* Messy play encourages children to become little scientists learning about the properties of different materials as they play with them and they have so much fun while they do it!
* Messy play stimulates the senses. The tactile experience gained during messy play helps little ones experience a variety of textures.
* During messy play, babies and toddlers are developing eye hand coordination and fine motor skills. What looks like a mess on the surface is truly a learning experience for your child.
* Messy Play activities are always carefully organised and materials used are thoroughly inspected to ensure the safety and well being of the children. We always check for allergies and dietary requirements before engaging in messy play with food

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| This policy was adopted at a meeting of | Brambles Community Pre-school |  |
| Held on |  |  |
| Date to be reviewed | 11/11/2022 |  |
| Signed on behalf of the provider |  |
| Name of signatory | Sharon Whitworth |
| Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) | Chairperson |