



Screen Use Policy

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Owner: Nursery Operations Team

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Screen Use Policy

Policy statement

At Kiddie Capers Childcare, we recognise that young children learn best through play, exploration, movement, social interaction and responsive relationships with adults. Digital technology and screens may occasionally support learning and communication; however, they should never replace hands-on experiences, active play, conversations, reading, outdoor learning or adult-child interaction. We take a precautionary approach to screen use and follow UK Government guidance for children under five years of age.

Aim

This policy aims to:

- Ensure screen use is limited, purposeful and age appropriate.
- Prioritise communication, language development and social interaction.
- Work in partnership with parents and carers to encourage healthy screen habits.

Guiding Principles

The setting will:

- Prioritise play-based learning and direct experiences.
- Use screens only when they support a specific educational, developmental or communication purpose.
- Ensure all digital content is age appropriate, safe and of high quality.
- Avoid the use of screens as entertainment, distraction or behaviour management tools.
- Recognise that children may already have screen exposure outside the setting.
- Keep meal and snack times screen free.
- Ensure screens do not replace rest, movement, conversation or imaginative play.
- Create environments that encourage engagement with people rather than devices.

Screen Use Expectations

In line with Government guidance, children under two years should not routinely use screens in the setting. Exceptions may include:

- Video calls with family members.

For children aged two to five years:

- Screen use will be minimal and carefully planned.
- Any screen use will have a clear learning objective.
- Children will not routinely watch screens for entertainment.
- Screens may be used to enable reasonable adjustments for children with SEND.
- Screens may be used for supporting communication needs.

Staff will consider children's total screen exposure throughout the day.

Content Standards

The setting will only use content that is:

- Age-appropriate.
- Educational and developmentally suitable.
- Slow-paced and easy for young children to follow.
- Free from advertising and inappropriate material.
- Consistent with safeguarding requirements.

Children with SEND

We recognise that some screen-based technologies and assistive devices provide essential support for communication, learning and inclusion.

Screen time limits outlined in this policy do not apply to assistive technologies used to meet identified needs. Decisions will be made in partnership with families and relevant professionals.

Staff Responsibilities

Staff will:

- Model healthy and appropriate technology use.
- Use setting devices only for professional purposes.
- Follow safeguarding, online safety and data protection procedures at all times.

Partnerships with Parents/Carers

We will, when appropriate:

- Share information about healthy screen habits.
- Communicate our approach to screen use.
- Encourage families to balance screen use with sleep, play, reading, physical activity and family interaction.
- Signpost parents to current UK Government guidance where appropriate.

Document history

Date	Version	Section	Details	Reviewed by
04/08/2026	1.0		Creation of new policy	LE