



HUMPTY DUMPTY PRE-SCHOOL

All Saints Centre, Bevan Hall, New Road, Hackbridge, Surrey CR4 4JN

Humptydumpty17@virginmedia.com

07729 434226

SAFER SCREEN TIME POLICY

Here at Humpty Dumpty Pre-school we recognise that technology can support children's learning, creatively, communication and understanding of the world. However, young children learn best through real-world experience, play, movement, relationships and responsive interaction with adults.

This Policy sets out how we will use screens safely, purposefully and appropriately, while ensuring that screen use does not replace valuable opportunities for physical activity, outdoor play, social interaction, communication, creative play, stories and hands on learning.

Our approach follows current UK Department for Education guidance for early years settings.

Our Principles

We will:

- Use screens only when there is a clear educational, developmental or accessibility purpose.
- Keep children's screen use to a minimum and use screen-free alternatives wherever possible.
- Ensure screen use is actively supervised and supported by an adult.
- Never use screens simply to occupy, distract, reward, calm or manage children's behaviour.
- Never have screens playing in the background.

- Ensure screen activities do not replace active play, outdoor learning, conservation, stories or relationships.
- Consider each child's individual needs, including children with SEND.
- Work in partnership with parents and carers to encourage healthy and consistent screen habits.

Recommended Limits

For children aged 2 – 5 years, screen time should be limited to **up to one hour per day, and less if possible**. This includes screen use at home and in the preschool setting.

The one hour figure will not be treated as a target. Our Pre-school will normally provide substantially less screen exposure where this can be achieved without reducing children's learning, inclusion or access to appropriate assistive technology.

Screen-based assistive technology used by children with SEND will not be included within this limit where it is necessary for communication, accessibility, wellbeing or quality of life.

How Screens will be used

Screen use will be:

- Short and purposeful
- Planned in advance where possible.
- Linked to children's interests, learning or development.
- Age appropriate.
- Supervised by an adult.
- Interactive rather than passive wherever possible.
- Followed by opportunities for discussion, movement or practical activity.

Examples may include:

- Looking at photographs or images to support or project.
- Exploring a virtual experience that cannot easily be provided in the setting.
- Using a digital camera to support children's creativity.
- Listening to a short song or nursery rhyme as part of an adult led activity.

- Supporting communication or accessibility for a child with SEND

A screen will not be used as a substitute for an adult reading a story, singing a song or engaging directly with children when the real-world activity is available.

This policy was reviewed September 2026
It will be updated annually if not before