

Throwing



All children developmentally go through a stage of throwing items, particularly as it usually gains them adult attention! In a busy nursery environment, this can be very difficult and needs a consistent approach from all staff.

What are the common difficulties?

- Children hurting other children or staff by throwing objects

Why do throwing difficulties occur?

- Children are going through a typical developmental stage
- Children have learnt that they gain adult attention if they throw an item
- Children find it difficult to share
- Children have delayed development and do not know how to play with the resources on offer
- Children have had limited experiences of play at home
- Staff do not respond consistently to the child when he/she throws items



How can we help?

- Carry out observations to find out when the incidents of throwing occur and if there is a trigger
- Ask your setting based SENCO for help to complete an Early Support Summary Profile to check if there is a delay in any aspects of the child's development
- Ask parents if the throwing happens at home and how they respond
- Ask parents what their child likes to play with at home and set up specific activities to include this
- Use pictures of the child's favourite TV characters to interest them in other activities
- Set up a structured throwing activity inside or outside. Use scrunched up newspaper/bean bags and a large bowl or bucket. Throw soft items at a wall
- Set up opportunities to throw balls outside
- Make sure staff get on the floor and play alongside the child, modelling play but not taking over!
- Agree a specific response that staff will use when the child throws an item. Make sure they all use the same words and, if possible, ask parents to use the same approach at home