



We do get breakages; however, the children are supervised, and these are quickly and efficiently tidied up, with no harm done!

**Today for example** I was treated to afternoon tea (at 10am!) and was gently poured a “cup of tea” from a china tea pot complete with tea bag and cold water and a slice of melon the children had chopped themselves! They reminded themselves of the “rules” they had observed, telling themselves “slowly” as the water poured from the tea pot too fast. The child in question had learnt to problem solve and to hold the little lid on the tea pot after attempting many times to pour it and it overflowing as the lid had fallen off. Whereas, before with a plastic teapot the lid would have been firmly shut and this learning would not have occurred!

How can you help: We would welcome any donations of the following resources:

- Salad bowls and salad spoons
- Carvings
- Wooden masks
- Wooden animals
- Trinket boxes
- Baskets
- Mug trees
- Measuring cups
- China cups/tea pots

This list is just an example of the items that we are looking for! We would love anything unique, so feel free to say “I found this...” it may just be the perfect treasure for them!

At home think about items in your home you could let the children use. Can they help you peel potatoes on a Sunday or use a glass to drink from at the table all these small things help to develop your child’s confidence and independence.

By reusing and recycling resources we are also encouraging these young minds from the beginning that we need to protect the world we live in, use less plastic and become less of a throw away setting.



**AUTHENTIC  
RESOURCES**

*October 2018*



Authentic resources are perfect for children to handle, investigate and explore, provided in spaces that enable our children to become deeply engaged in deep levels of learning and sustained thinking.

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### *But why use them?*

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Children from birth are intrinsically motivated to find out more, they have a natural curiosity to explore, an innate drive to be curious, inquisitive and to investigate! For our youngest babies the exploration of these natural resources offers so much more, as they use their senses to explore. Rather than feeling the same old texture from plastic, they are unusual and unique offering visual beauty and stimulus.

For our preschool children these resources offer even more magical excitement! Imagine the excitement of finding your own little trinket box, imagine what you might find inside, or what you could do with it? So many possibilities from one little box!



We often get asked by worried parents about our use of china and glass, and our reply is simple. We believe in giving children the responsibility to handle and play with breakable items. Through this they learn the consequences of their actions, if they do not handle them with care they will break. It also encourages them to respect items, we have many discussions about them being careful and they need to be looked after. Their self-esteem is boosted as they have been trusted and feel capable to handle their very own treasures.

## A is for Authentic Resources

At Cheeky Monkeys we absolutely love authentic resources, recycled materials and loose parts!

What are authentic resources I hear you ask?

This is allowing the children to use real everyday items instead of replacing them with plastic child designed objects. Our aim over the next few months is to continue to adorn our setting with authentic resources, wooden items, and provide more natural tranquil spaces!

