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Advice for Sand Pit Care:

“The benefits of having sand available in schools and nurseries far outweigh the risks and the effort needed to get a sand pit set up and maintained” (i)

Top Tips:

- Rake sand pits before use and at regular intervals each day and remove any dangerous or foreign matter such as animal or human faeces and urine which could cause illness or infection.
- Remove toys from the sand pit at the end of each day.
- Turn the sand over monthly to aerate it.
- Clean the sand by regularly exposing it to sunshine and fresh air which are the most effective disinfectants.
- Ensure sand pits have adequate drainage.
- Change sand at least annually.
- Cover the sandpit when not in use, eg with fine chicken wire, so that cats will not use it as a toilet. Plastic covers, which do not let air through, can keep the sandpit damp, and are not such a good idea. If you use fine wire rain will tend to wash the sand, helping to keep it clean so long as the water can drain away.
- Ensure EVERYONE washes their hands after playing in the sand pit.

As with any new piece of equipment or new children using existing equipment, a risk benefit assessment needs to be undertaken and rules for use clearly communicated to ensure maximum fun in the safest way.

Source:-

- (i) creative star
- (ii) playengland.org.uk,



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