



Mirrors, Metals and Magnifiers

Mirrors, metal objects and magnifiers are resources that provide children outside and in with a broad range of creative, investigative experiences.

Upon arrival

- Check that your mirrors, magnifiers and metal bowls are unscratched. Please let Cosy know promptly if you receive ones with scratches.
- Remove the plastic film that covers many of these resources and dispose of this in a responsible manner.
- Fixed mirrors, metal items and magnifiers must be sited in a place where they do not pose a fire risk from reflecting or refracting the sun's rays. Remember that the sun's rays vary throughout the day and the seasons. A shady place or covered area works well.
- When putting mirrors up outside please take in to account how birds use your outdoor space - if they start flying into the mirror, then it will need to be repositioned as they won't be recognising the mirror for what it is.

Care needs

How long your mirror lasts outside depends on many factors including weather, climate, usage and where it is situated. Resources left outside have no protection from the elements. They will not last as long as those kept indoors.

- Always dry portable mirrors, metal objects and magnifiers thoroughly with a clean, soft cloth. Store overnight in a shed or other watertight storage.
- Treat with love and care – avoid dropping, stepping on these resources and other rough treatment.
- The surface of mirrors, magnifiers and metal bowls are easily scratched. Bear this in mind when using with children and the level of supervision you are providing. Place mirrors on smooth surfaces – the undersides can also be scratched causing damage to the mirrored surface.
- Do not leave combustible material in metal bowls on sunny days.
- Metal objects can heat up rapidly on sunny or hot days and become hot to touch. Ensure they are placed in cool, shady areas during fine weather.

Learning to care

The mirror, magnifying and metal products that Cosy supply are for use in schools, early years and childcare settings only.

Extension ideas to extend the shelf life of the resource

- Put safety film on mirrors to stop them shattering.
- Acrylic and Perspex mirrors often scratch more easily than glass ones as a general rule. Don't be afraid to leave the plastic film on these for as long as possible to preserve their outdoor shelf life.
- Once the silver foil comes off the acrylic mirrors, then the remaining Perspex may sometimes be used as a drawing or mark making surface.