

# Modern Living Range



Ideas and Inspiration



## About the Modern Living Range

The Modern Living Range offers an **appropriate space for nurturing children's learning and development** within an environment that mirrors real-life contexts.

Within this space, children are free to explore and understand their world both independently and collaboratively, or with the supportive presence of an adult. It's a realm where they can see reflections of their own lives, utilising a variety of accessories and props to reenact moments from their daily lives through play.

At the core of this collection lies a **holistic approach**, focusing on the myriad of interactions and environments that children encounter and participate in. It's about creating a versatile and comforting space that truly accommodates children, providing reassurance and a **sense of belonging**. A home is something that every child has in common, regardless of their individual cultural backgrounds or earlier experiences.

This contemporary collection has been developed with our young children in mind. Understanding the importance of having a realistic space that they can freely explore and that reflects their daily 21<sup>st</sup>-century lives. We want children to feel like they own this space and to make it feel as real as possible.

**Kamilla Jawed-Rogers, Early Years Innovation Manager and In-House Educationalist**



## Different configurations

**The Modern Living Range is modular, meaning it can be adapted to fit into different spaces or settings.**

### **Designed to be adaptable**

- This range has been designed to be adaptable (modular) so that it can be configured to fit your needs, no matter the size or space of your setting. The range can be bought as a complete collection, or different units may be selected individually for smaller spaces.

### **Linear configuration**

- For smaller areas, you can position the units linearly, creating a compact and efficient use of space, or you may wish to utilise a corner of a room.

### **Configurations for collaboration and interactions**

- To promote collaborative play and to provide opportunities for interactions, the units can be joined to create a space where children can huddle together, work on tasks collaboratively, or have important conversations and interactions around a central layout. Why not join the units to create larger workspaces? E.g. the sink and washing machine could be connected to the breakfast bar so that conversations can take place while putting a wash on or whipping up an imaginary feast.
- If space allows, additional pieces such as the Modern Living fireplace, coffee table, or corner sofa can be added to enhance the living space further, creating a more inviting and stimulating environment that represents home life even further.

### **Let the children decide**

- The children may use their decision-making, problem-solving, and teamwork skills to design their own home corner space. Where will they decide to place the units? Some children may use their imagination to adapt the space further by transforming it into a café, restaurant, or bakery.



## Props and accessories

### Explore a range of foods, both real and pretend.

- Why not explore a variety of foods from different cultures. This can be through role-play food or real foods including fruit and vegetables which can offer added sensory experiences. Children can explore the different types of packaging such as tins, packets, and boxes, along with a range of prints. They can also learn about different cooking techniques and ingredients before having a go at creating recipes and creations of their own. A perfect opportunity to explore real-life produce in a contextual environment.



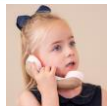
### Cooking and eating utensils

Cooking and eating utensils are a great way to engage children in baking, cooking, and creating. A well-developed domestic kitchen area gives children access to woks, pots and pans, cooking utensils, whisks, and different measuring equipment.

To develop an understanding of different cultures, why not add a range of equipment such as chopsticks, tagines, tiered tiffin boxes, knives, and forks.



# Props and Accessories



## Items to personalise the space

- Paintings or handwritten shopping lists can take pride of place on the fridge. Alternatively, shelves can be added to the home corner. These can be utilised to display homemade ornaments made by the children, or to display photo frames containing images of family members, pets, or special events. By showcasing the children's work, they feel comfortable and valued in the space. A place where they belong.

## Clothing and fabrics

- When it comes to domestic role play, children love to dress up as different characters and people as they pretend to go about their daily lives. To enhance their imaginative play, provide them with a variety of clothing that reflect everyday experiences. Think about introducing everyday items such as slippers, dressing gowns, hats, coats, umbrellas, aprons, fabrics, purses, bags and scarves. These props will allow children to create familiar and invented characters, encouraging rich and meaningful role-play.

## Incorporate everyday technology

- Incorporate everyday technology into the home corner by adding objects like a tablet, lamps, telephones, food mixers, digital picture frames or talking photo albums. This demonstrates to children how technology is part of our everyday lives but highlights that not all technology requires a screen.

## Maths and Literacy in real life contexts

- Add items and resources that incorporate Maths and Literacy in real-life contexts. Place books, leaflets, shopping lists, recipes, birthday cards, and takeaway menus around the space for reading and writing opportunities. Tape measures, clocks, money placed in purses, and measuring jugs with scales can promote discussions around Maths and how we use it in everyday situations.



## Looking after ourselves and keeping safe

Domestic play provides great opportunities for discussions about how to keep healthy and safe.

### Keeping things clean

Consider using the dishwasher, washing machine, and sink unit to explore cleaning things such as cutlery, crockery, and other kitchen items such as tea towels. This may lead to questions such as 'Why do we need to keep things clean?', 'Why is it important to wash our hands?' Why not introduce children to the different types of technology that have been invented to assist us with these everyday tasks.

### Food Awareness

Discuss food origins and the importance of washing some ingredients before cooking them. Using real food, such as potatoes or carrots covered in soil sparks conversations about how certain foods are planted and grown and where they come from.

### Handwashing Adventures

Incorporate pretend soap and washing-up liquid into the sink area. This will encourage children to role-play handwashing and cleaning routines before or after certain tasks.



### Safety awareness

A perfect setup to teach children about different temperatures (hot and cold) using the oven, hob, and sink (water) as examples. Provide oven gloves and tea towels so that children can role-play what they have learned. During play, children may act out scenarios such as burning the dinner or calling the fire brigade for help. Great for teaching awareness of hazards and the role of the emergency services.

