

8: Care, Learning and Play Policy

The programme of activities and the atmosphere of our Club aims to encourage confidence, independence and enjoyment. Our work has, at its core, the aim of enabling children to develop their emotional, social, cognitive, interpersonal and physical skills, and their desire to explore, discover and be creative.

The Club will provide a well-planned and organised play environment that offers children rich and stimulating experiences, alongside opportunities to explore, experiment, plan and make decisions for themselves. Children are encouraged to be confident and independent, and every effort is made to develop their self-esteem and learning through play.

The programme of activities is developed following children's interests, to allow children to build on their natural curiosity, develop their language and mathematical thinking, use their imagination and develop positive social relationships. The club recognises and takes into account the differing ages, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children. At all times, the setting will recognise a child's individuality, effort and achievement.

Wherever appropriate, children will be involved in the process of planning activities so that the programme reflects their opinions, and so that children feel some ownership over their Club. Such processes will be governed by the procedures set out in the Involving and Consulting Children policy.

There are indoor and outdoor activities available, and children can flow freely between these choosing where they prefer to be.

The Club will provide children with age-appropriate equipment and resources appropriate to their interests, according to the provisions of the Equipment policy.

The programme of activities will be displayed in a place that is accessible to all children and to their parents/carers.

Indoor play

Our indoor activities promote:

- Physical skills in fine motor development
- Opportunities for co-operation, language development and independence.
- Vital mathematical, scientific and creative exploration

Activities include but are not limited to: drawing, baking, building, designing etc.

Outdoor play

Children will be offered access to outdoor play every day, subject to weather conditions. Parents are asked to provide suitable outdoor wear.

Outdoor play opportunities are included in planning and offer opportunities for all areas of learning including imaginative play, construction, horticultural play, scientific and environmental and quiet play.

We encourage children to take an active part and interest in their external surroundings by observing the seasons and growing cycle.



Outdoor play promotes:

- Physical skills in gross motor development
- Opportunities for co-operation, language development and independence.
- Vital mathematical, scientific and creative exploration

Activities include but are not limited to: football, tennis, skipping, chalk drawing, parachute games etc.

When all the children are outside, staff will position themselves to ensure that all children are adequately supervised and supported and learning opportunities extended.

A full range of experiences are provided outside to ensure that all children are appropriately challenged.

Staffing

Staffing arrangements will provide opportunities for:

- Reflection on practice.
- The realisation that working with children is a complex, challenging and demanding task and that often there are no easy answers.
- That learning is a shared process and that children learn most effectively when, with the support of a knowledgeable and trusted adult, they are actively involved and interested.

Staff will display flexible styles of leadership and respond appropriately to children according to their age, understanding and needs.

Staff will support, recognise and promote achievements by all children.