



Play and Learning

'A playing child is a learning child'

Statement of Intent:

Every child has the right to play and this should be supported through appropriate provision and experiences. All children are active learners and should have opportunities to play both indoors and outdoors. Outdoor play, in particular, has a positive impact on children's development and sense of well-being.

Policy aims:

- To value the play of all the children in an environment which enables play indoors and out
- To facilitate free flow between indoors and outdoors in all weathers
- To provide flexible spaces
- To provoke children's natural curiosity and give children ownership of their learning
- To enable children to follow their own lines of enquiry over a sustained period of time
- To keep all children engaged in learning with a 'Can do' approach
- To allow children to make sense of their world
- To encourage children to take appropriate risks

Procedures:

- To provide and maintain an enabling and self-correcting environment that promotes child initiated and independent learning.
- To provide resources that facilitate children's play, exploration and interests.
- To know the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' in order to:
 - support children's play, learning and development
 - provide challenge and opportunities to consolidate and extend learning
- To be a play partner – sensitive to the children's needs and know when to get involved and when not to.
- To observe and evaluate children's play in order to plan for next steps of development and learning.
- To be flexible with staff deployment in order to support free flow.
- To ensure easy access to outdoors and provide appropriate clothing for children and staff.
- To promote the importance of play to families and children

Links to:

- EYFS Principle into Practice Cards 'Enabling Environments' and 'Learning and Development' (2007) DCSF
- Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (2017) DfE
- National Strategies 'Learning, Playing and Interacting' publication (2009) DCSF
- National Strategies 'Confident, Capable and Creative, Supporting Boys Achievements' publication (2007) DCSF