

PLAY POLICY

All children are entitled to play; it is intrinsic to their quality of life and an important part of how they learn and enjoy themselves.

We believe, Play is essential for children's development building their confidence as they learn to explore to think about problems and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.

At Fusion Childcare Services, we recognise the importance of play in a child's development and follow the Playwork Principles. We offer a range of structured and unstructured activities in a free choice environment to suit individual children and their diverse needs. As Play Assistants we support and facilitate play, and do not seek to control or direct it. We will never force children to participate in play, but allow children to initiate and direct the experience for themselves.

Resources and activities will be made available to support children's development and enjoyment. We encourage children to make positive contributions in choosing experiences that they will find both stimulating and fun.

All children's play at Fusion is freely chosen, personally directed and motivated from within. Through play, the child explores the world and his/her relationship within, elaborating all the time a flexible range of responses to the challenges he/she encounters by playing, the child learns and develops as an individual.

The setting aims to offer children the chance to stretch themselves by testing and developing their abilities without exposing them to unacceptable risks.

Children's play provides them with a range of personal skills. Some of these can be taught, however, there are many that can only be learned through experience.

Fusion will take steps to ensure that the risks are managed and controlled so far as is reasonably practicable while still allowing the potential benefits to be delivered.

Fusion recognises the value of risky play and aims to manage the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe. Our **Play /Risk Benefit Assessment** details this for specific activities.

Facilitating play:

We support and facilitate play by:

- Providing an environment which is safe and suitable for playing in.
- Setting up the environment so that activities are ready before the children arrive.
- Providing a range of equipment, resources and activities on a daily basis, and keeping a record of these to ensure that varied play opportunities are offered
- Encouraging children to request additional or alternative equipment as they choose, using the Toy Catalogue and if a request has to be refused, explaining why.
- Not expecting children to be occupied at all times.

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- Making outdoor play available every day, unless there are extreme weather conditions.
- Involving children in planning activities, to reflect their own interests and ideas.
- Planning activities that enable children to develop their natural curiosity and imagination.
- Allowing children freedom of creative expression, particularly in artistic or creative play.
- Intervening in play only when necessary: to reduce risks of accident or injury, or to encourage appropriate social skills.
- Warning children in advance when an activity or game is due to end.

Play areas and equipment:

- All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked and Dynamically Risk Assessed daily before the children arrive in accordance with our **Health and Safety Policy**. Children are also involved with Risk Assessments.
- Children are involved in selecting additional equipment and resources for use at Fusion.
- The resources used at Fusion promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line with our **Equalities Policy**.
- Fusion has a selection of fiction and non-fiction books, suitable for all age ranges.
- Children are involved in Toy and App testing through Fundamentally Children.

Adopted on: 04.01.2012

Reviewed on: 01.04.17

Next review due: April 2018

Signed.....

FUSION CHILDCARE SERVICES

Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2017): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment [3.57, 3.58].