

D.P.S.

Out of School Club

Play Policy

Play Policy

Principle

At DPS Out of School Club we are committed to supporting the importance of play, both indoors and outdoors. We recognise play as a crucial part of any child's development and it is our aim to fulfil the right of all children to play and have access to appropriate play provision.

Policy Statement of Intent

We aim to provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment that allows children to explore the world, develop and practice skills. Children's involvement in planning for play is vital, reflecting their own ideas and interests.

Playwork Principles (www.skillsactive.com/playwork/principles)

1. All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and wellbeing of individuals and communities.
2. Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests in their own way for their own reasons.
3. The prime focus and essence of Playwork is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education.
4. For playworkers, the play process takes precedence and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.
5. The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which children can play.
6. The playworkers response to children and young people playing is based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice.
7. Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and the impact of children and young people's play on the playworker.
8. Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All playworker intervention must balance risk with the development benefit and wellbeing of children

Procedures

We support and facilitate play by providing:

- An environment which is safe and suitable for play.
- A range of equipment, resources and activities on a daily basis.
- The space to play freely and confidently with their peers, indoor and outdoors.

- Play opportunities that will promote enthusiasm, enjoyment and confidence in developing skills and abilities.
- Children's views and suggestions will be taken into consideration when planning play opportunities.
- Children will be involved in planning activities to reflect their interest and ideas. This will be facilitated through regular children's meetings, wish lists, ideas for cookery/snack.
- Observing and evaluating the successfulness and effectiveness of the provided activities. Necessary changes will be highlighted and implemented where needed in future plans.
- Children will also be given the opportunity to rest and relax during the session.
- Ensuring that play opportunities are open and foster cultural diversity, equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice.

Role of the Play Worker

- Organise, plan and supervise play
- Support and facilitate the play process
- Respond to play cues and intervene to extend play
- Observe, review and evaluate play experiences
- Risk assess and ensure adult to child ratios are maintained
- Take part in training where appropriate

Children's play may not involve equipment or have an end product. Children play on their own and with others. Their play may be boisterous and energetic or quiet and contemplative, light hearted or very serious"

Children's Play Council 1998

We aim to recognise the importance of reflecting:

- Individual abilities and play needs
- Interests of children
- The balance between risk taking and safety

We aim to extend children's:

- Choice and control
- Exploration and understanding of the wider world
- Freedom and satisfaction
- Access to a range of play opportunities

We aim to nurture children's:

- Self-esteem, self-worth and independence
- Social interaction and building positive relationships
- Well-being, health and development
- Knowledge and understanding
- Creativity and capacity to learn

Inclusive Play

We aim to provide good quality, balanced and meaningful play opportunities for all children, regardless of disability and background. We believe all children should have the chance to play together. Involving children in the planning process gives children a sense of control and ownership which motivates and supports a rich play environment.

Links with other policies:

- Accident/Incident Policy
- Additional needs Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Maintenance and Replacement of Toys Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Managing Behavior Policy
- Managing the Risks Associated with the Individual Service User Policy
- Staff Training and Development Policy

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually by the management team to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

This policy was adopted by DPS Out of School Club management team.

Signed: D. Thompson
(on behalf of the management team)

Position: Chairperson

Date: 24/10/16

Reviewed on:

Date: April '18 Signed: D. Thompson

Date: October 20 Signed: D. Thompson

Date: March '21 Signed: D. Thompson