



# HOLY TRINITY ENNISKILLEN

## Pre-School Policy on Play

Policy approved by Board of Governors

Dated

Signed

Review Date

## **Holy Trinity Preschool**

We understand that play is something that children enjoy but is also very important. Play has a purpose and can be a step towards the learning and understanding of valuable skills. It can help the child fit into the world and develop into healthy and competent individuals.

The preschool setting will endeavour to provide children with a stimulating environment, where playing and learning go hand in hand. A varied selection of activities will be provided throughout the day, using both indoor and outdoor activities.

### **Messy Play**

A large variety of materials will be provided, to allow the children to experience different textures therefore encouraging imaginative experiences and expressive language. Activities such as painting, sticking and chalking will be made available on a daily basis. Additional activities and games are also available daily. These activities/games encourage and develop children's social skills - turn taking, sharing etc.

Values:

- Encourages social play
- First hand experiences in spatial relationships (next to, underneath, on top of etc.)
- Sometimes occurs outdoors, involving all health benefits
- Emotional benefits, an outlet for aggression
- Promotes resourcefulness
- Encourages manipulative skills
- Develops awareness of three- dimensional shapes

### **Sand and Water**

These will be made available on a daily basis. They provide opportunities to

experience scientific and mathematical concepts as well as encouraging social and language development.

Values:

- Smoothing
- Provides an opportunity to destroy legitimately
- No right or wrong way
- Sensory experience
- Experience of volume

### **Imaginative Play**

We recognize the importance of imaginative play for children and aim to provide rich opportunities to widen their imagination. These will include playing with dolls and accessories, cars, dressing up clothes and a home corner. There is also a large selection of construction toys which additionally encourage good hand/eye co-ordination, counting, sorting etc.

Values:

- Emotional benefits
- Identification with parent's role
- Planning and organizing
- Builds self confidence

### **Physical Play**

Climbing Frames, Bark Area, Bikes, Trikes Play house etc are all available. The children have a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre fully enclosed fenced off bark/tarmac area where they can play safely weather permitting.

Values:

- Releases surplus energy
- Stimulus to appetite
- Offers elements of challenge and adventure
- Builds self confidence
- Develops gross motor skills

## **Books**

A large variety of books are available for children to choose from. They can read and look at the pictures alone or with a staff member. In any event the children will be read to as a group each day.

Values:

- Builds self confidence
- Encourages social play
- Develops language
- Helps with attention and listening skills