

Fun 4U Club

26 Play (Planning & Programming) Policy

Principle

It is well known in the early year's sector that children learn through play. Play is vital for a child's development, to ensure they achieve and reach their full potential. As PLAY WORKERS we support and facilitate children's play and do not seek to control or direct their play. Play should be freely chosen and intrinsically motivated. Through planning adults are able to ensure that children are provided with a wide range of play opportunities and experiences to enhance their abilities and skills. At Fun 4U Club we base our policy on section 31 of UN Convention Children's Rights. (26.1) we follow the Play work Principles (26.2) and the Play Curriculum (26.3) plus BOB HUGHES 16 Play Types (26.4); which our planning is based upon.

Statement of Intent

Fun 4U Club believes

- Every child has a right to play and learn.
- Children are provided with time, space and a stimulating environment to play and develop in.
- Every child is an individual and learns through the planned programmes and free play at their own pace. Outdoor play is of great importance for children of school age. Engaging with nature has been scientifically proven to reduce stress and enhance our ability for mindfulness.
- Individual play plans are only necessary when planning for a child's individual special needs.
- Evaluation and reflection is vital after planned activities to ensure that the children have gained the most from the learning/play experience. To note changes for next time.
- Children have the right to freedom of choice and this is always planned for within the activities provided.
- Children need to feel some degree of achievement out of any activity; this gives them a belief in their own ability and helps children to progress to the next challenge.
- Children are allowed to rest and unwind as this is also a very important aspect of growth for children.
- Children have the right to explore games from their cultural background which also encourages understanding, diversity and inclusion.

Procedure

- All staff members are involved in the play and planning of play activities.
- Staff are given a copy of the Play Work Principles, Bob Hughes 16 Play Types & The Role Of the Playworker within their induction booklet along with other play information and direction.
- Staff are actively encouraged to attend as much Play Work training as possible.
- Intervention of staff to the children's play is done only when necessary to reduce the risk of accidents injury, to encourage appropriate social skills or to protect the play space and flow.
- Balancing risk with benefit for the children before intervening in the children's play
- The children are also given an opportunity for feedback and input on these activities through discussion and ideas walls plus a mumble and grumbles box.
- We take into consideration that the children have just finished a structured day at school therefore their input to play activities is important and we endeavour to take this into consideration when planning.
- When planning and facilitating play activities we take into consideration all of the age groups and abilities of the children attending the session.
- Loose parts play is a major area of planning for each session encouraging and developing children's imagination, curiosity, problem solving plus team work and developing the ability of thinking outside the box to achieve their goal.
- All members of staff are actively encouraged to give suggestions and feedback on our activities.
- Outdoor play areas are checked for dangers or hazards before use each day