

HARPOLE DAY NURSERY

Play policy

Statement of intent

- To promote the importance of play for all children
- To recognise that all children have the right to play (as stated in the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Benefits of play

- Play promotes children's development, learning, creativity and independence
- Play keeps children healthy and active – active children become active adults
- Play fosters social inclusion. It helps children understand the people and places in their lives, learn about their environment and develop their sense of community
- Play allows children to find out about themselves, their abilities and their interests
- Play is therapeutic. It helps children to deal with difficult or painful circumstances, such as emotional stress or medical treatment
- Play gives children the chance to let off steam and have fun

National Children's Bureau

Methods

- To work in partnership with parents to enable all children to have equal access to good quality play opportunities and services, both indoors and outdoors (see outdoor play policy.)
- To promote the development of inclusion play opportunities which take into account and respond to children's different abilities and needs, their age, gender, cultural and religious backgrounds, social, family, economic and environmental situations
- We follow guidance from the EYFS.
- To ensure that all children are respected and valued so that they can play free from racial or other types of discrimination or abuse (see equal opportunities policy and SEN policy)
- To ensure that children are given appropriate adult time and attention during child-centred play
- To support the development of play opportunities and services that are safe, stimulating and appropriate for children's ages and stages of development (see health and safety policy)
- To ensure that staff and volunteers working with children have appropriate training, knowledge and experience for their duties and responsibilities. All supervisors are trained to level 3, at least 50% of the remaining staff are trained to level 2. All staff have individual training plans.
- To develop varied play opportunities which challenge and stimulate children's abilities but not threaten their survival or well-being

- To ensure that children and young people have the opportunity to play and take parting a range of activities where they can gain confidence and learn on their own terms
- To support and encourage children's own ideas and decisions about what they do and how they do it
- To ensure children are given opportunities to make choices within play to support their development
- Parents and carers are supported in their understanding that children at nursery will sometimes get messy and dirty in the course of their play. Parents are encouraged not to send children to nursery in their best clothes and to keep a spare set of clothes at nursery. Appropriate seasonal clothes must be worn.

Signed on behalf of the nursery

Date