

Outside Play Policy

Our commitment

At OCOSC we believe play is an important part of children's happiness, learning and childhood. We recognise that all children have the right to play and we will use the values and principles set out in this policy in all our decisions about children's play.

The policy sets out OCOSC'S commitment to ensuring that quality environments for play and informal recreation are available to all children and aims to improve the way we think about, and provide, opportunities for play. As a Club we believe that all children need opportunities to play which allow them to explore, manipulate, experience and affect their environment in line with the playwork principles.

Play and Risk

Managing Risk in Play Provision

"Children need and want to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children, stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing abilities. To do this, play provision aims to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury"

An essential element of exploration within the medium of play is the opportunity for children to experience freely chosen activities where they can take acceptable risks and challenge themselves beyond their existing capabilities. Allowing children to take acceptable risks develops their ability to independently judge risks and learn new skills.

"Without opportunities to take acceptable levels of risk children's development is inhibited, undermining their capacity to deal with the wilder unsupervised world".

It is OCOSC's responsibility to strike a balance between the risk and their benefits. This policy sets out OCOSC's overall objectives for children to take acceptable risks in their play.

Carefully considered and comprehensive risk assessments of all play provision within the club should be reviewed on an annual basis, or whenever significant change/development in play provision/equipment or child circumstances takes place.

The Value of Play

Play enables children to learn through experiences that cannot be taught. Through exploring and testing ideas children learn:

- About their bodies and themselves as a person
- About how to socialise amicably with each other
- About the physical world around them

OCOSC recognise the value of play and aim to develop a wide range of outside play environments to meet the needs of all our children. Play is satisfying and freely chosen by the child. It may be serious

or light hearted. It may produce something or it may be done simply for its own sake. We aim to ensure children's choices over their experiences is promoted in our outside play areas.

Our club aims

- To ensure our play setting provides a challenging and stimulating environment
- To allow our children to take risks
- To provide opportunities for our children to develop their skills of getting on with each other
- To aid our children's physical, social, emotional, spiritual and intellectual development.
- To provide a range of environments which will encourage our children to explore and play imaginatively
- To provide a range of environments which will support our children's learning
- To promote independence, self-confidence and team work within our children
- To promote cooperation, negotiation, problem solving and resilience.

Learning Opportunities

We want to create an amazing environment for play and learning, which will include opportunities to explore. We will include opportunities to explore the following:

- Man-made and natural materials
- Challenge in relation to physical environment
- Movement e.g. running, jumping, climbing, balancing
- Emotions e.g. learning about oneself and others, sadness/gladness, rejection/acceptance, frustration/achievement, boredom/fascination, fear/confidence
- The operation of the five senses through sounds, textures, tastes, smells and sights
- Social interactions – enhancing self-esteem and understanding of others through freely chosen interactions e.g. within peer groups, with individuals, with groups of different ages, abilities, interests, gender, ethnicity and culture
- Making choices, problem solving, being creative
- The physical world e.g. earth, air, fire and water
- Achieving and also coping with failing
- Communication and negotiation skills
- Change e.g. building/demolishing, transforming the environment and experiencing the season.

Reviewed: _____ Date _____

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