



Mangotsfield Out of School Club Play Policy

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Play Policy - MOOSC11.03

Purpose

MOOSC believes in the importance of play in a child's development. The Club has a responsibility to support and facilitate play and not seek to control or direct it. The Club's policy is to never force a child to participate in play, but allow them to initiate and direct the experience for themselves.

All children are entitled to play; it is intrinsic to their quality of life and an important part of how they learn and enjoy themselves. It is also a key component of a healthy lifestyle, enabling good physical, emotional, mental and social development. At its most successful it offers children and young people as much choice, control and freedom as possible.

Facilitating Play

The Club supports and will facilitate play by:

- Providing an environment which is safe and suitable for playing in;
- Setting up the Club so that activities are ready before a session begins;
- Providing a range of equipment, resources and activities on a regular basis, making sure to keep a record to ensure varied play opportunities are offered;
- Encouraging children to request additional or alternative equipment as they choose, and if a request has to be refused, explaining why;
- Not expecting children to be occupied at all times;
- Making outdoor play available every day, unless the weather is particularly bad;
- Involving children in planning activities so they reflect their own interests and ideas;
- Planning activities that enable children to develop their natural curiosity and imagination;
- Allowing children freedom of creative expression, particularly in artistic or creative play;
- Intervening in play only when necessary in order to reduce risk of accident or injury or to encourage appropriate social skills;
- Encouraging the children to read and experience the Club's wide selection of age appropriate fiction and non-fiction reading and picture books;
- Warning children in advance when an activity or game is due to end; and
- Linking play to school activities where relevant and beneficial.

Child Involvement

It is hugely important to the Club that the children are involved and have their voices heard when suggesting activities and games. The Club makes sure children have input into the play areas and equipment the Club provides.

Children will be involved in selecting additional equipment and resources for use at the Club and the activities planned for Holiday Clubs should include suggestions from the children.



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Diversity in Play

The Club will make sure that each site and session will have a wide variety of play-based areas and equipment on offer, which adheres to standards. The resources at the Club are used to promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities and this will be in the form of toys, books and educational activities.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of children and staff is a priority at the Club.

All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked and risk assessed on a daily basis before a session begins and during trips, these checks are carried out before hand and on arrival at the location.

The Club maintains an inventory of resources and equipment, which is regularly reviewed to identify where any additional resources may be required.

Any external providers, trainers, coaches, entertainers etc. the Club hires during sessions or the Holiday Clubs are fully vetted and only those with the necessary disclosure requirements are permitted on School property.

Related Policies

1. Early Years Foundation Stage
2. Equal Opportunities
3. Health & Safety
4. Healthy Lifestyle