



Ecclesall Kids Club

6.9 Play Policy

The United Nations Rights of the Child, 1989 Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) states “Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.” The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2024) says “Play is essential for children’s development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.”

Here at Ecclesall Kids Club our mission is to provide safe, low cost, high quality and stimulating play care in a welcoming and friendly environment. Our play workers recognise the importance of play to a child and young person’s development and follow the play work principles.

Facilitating play

To best facilitate and support children’s play, here at Ecclesall Kids Club:

- All play workers will support all children and young people to create a space in which they can play. The play worker will only intervene in the child or young person’s play if necessary to encourage development in social skills and reduce risks of accidents and injuries.
- The play environment is set up before the children arrive and includes a range of activities and play opportunities based around the children’s individual needs and interests, although children can request alternative resources and equipment if they wish. Should the play worker refuse the request, the play worker will always explain why.
- As a club we provide a suggestion book for our children and young people, to enable them to partake in planning of activities, to reflect their own interests and ideas. We do focus groups and do an annual survey to find out children’s thoughts and feelings about our club.
- The play environment is safe, suitable and can be manipulated to suit the needs of play. All risky play will be assessed and if not allowed, staff will give a reason to teach children about dangers and when risks are acceptable.
- We don’t expect children to be busy at all times. The school day can be very tiring and sometimes children need time to relax and rest.
- We provide varied craft and play plans daily for our children and young people, these ensure we offer various play opportunities outside our daily play resources. Alongside our planning, children are also given the freedom to express themselves creatively.
- Outdoor play is available daily, although in extreme weather conditions this may not always be appropriate. We will aim to replace outdoor play, with indoor physical play if possible.
- We will warn children in advance when an activity is going to come to an end.

‘Play is great for children’s well-being and development. When planning and providing play opportunities, the goal is not to eliminate risk, but to weigh up the risks and benefits. No child will learn about risk if they are wrapped in cotton wool’. (HSE, 2012)



Play areas and equipment

- All our play spaces are checked and risk assessed daily before our children and young people arrive.
- Resources and equipment are checked regularly to identify where replacements maybe needed or additional resources are required.
- Our play resources and equipment promote positives images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions and abilities.

Further Reading

- www.hse.gov.uk
- Playwork principles 2005

This policy was adopted by: Ecclesall Kids Club	Date: 10/01/2020
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