



Play Policy

Poppleton Road out of school club are committed to supporting the importance of play, both indoors and outdoors, and the value of risk taking. All staff members contribute to the planning of activities and these are based on the children's ideas, staff ideas and events happening in the world around us; for example, religious festivals.

We recognise that children will learn and develop through play, and provide for this in a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. In line with the EYFS (2023) we ensure that staff recognise *"there is an ongoing judgement to be made by practitioners about the balance between activities led by children and activities led or guided by adults. Practitioners must respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction."*

We achieve this by supporting and supervising children's play throughout the session, taking into account the age, interests and individual needs of each child. For example, we will plan and take an active role in a selection of indoor and outdoor activities which can be accessed by all of the children, as well as supervising children in their choice of free play activities. We will focus on all of the children in the setting but are aware of those children who we feel need more support and guidance than their peers and will ensure that they receive the support that they need. All staff are expected to attend training to enhance the professional development of their knowledge around child initiated and adult led play and play in general.

We provide provision in which children can play in a safe and secure environment and the planned activities can be changed to meet the views of the children, for example we might change a planned activity if there is a strong wish by a group of children to carry out a different activity. The children are encouraged to make choices and share their views as well as to problem solve and develop relationships through play; for example, encouraging a mix of ages in a structured game; whether this is one to one play, in small groups or in larger groups. We aim to ensure that the play experiences promote understanding and acceptance of diversity through planned activities that recognise different religions, celebrations, languages and nationalities as well as reactively in play amongst the diversity of children attending the setting.

At Poppleton Road out of school club we also aim to undertake outings in the local area during school holidays to give the children a wide range of play



opportunities. All of our staff encourage free play and children can access inside and outside play provision throughout the session. The children are encouraged to share their ideas for activities or resources with the staff team and whenever possible these will be incorporated into the planning of activities.

The types of play at Poppleton Road out of school club include:

- Art and craft
- Role play and dressing up
- Board games
- Construction toys
- Books
- Writing and drawing materials
- Outdoor play and outdoor play equipment
- Games console and laptops

All experiences of play and activities will be made accessible to children with learning difficulties and disabilities to ensure all children are able to use the different areas of the setting and participate in the different activities. The children are given the opportunity to mix different resources together and from different areas to extend their play; for example, the construction toys can be taken outside.

Poppleton Road out of school club emphasise the importance of child initiated activities and free play, the staff are encouraged to interact and support the children in their experiences, whether adult led or guided.

Outdoor play is an important part of play at the club because it allows the children to experience aspects of risky play, it allows them to exercise and develop different skills. The outside area offers:

- Construction toys
- Role play
- Climbing wall



- Climbing frame and slide
- Sand pit
- Scooters
- Trikes
- Roller skates
- Balls
- Skipping ropes
- Hoops
- Access to a field area and our own allotment

The staff at the club support all of the children to develop various skills and part of this is encouraging risky play. Risky play encourages the children to negotiate, increase their understanding and allows them to make judgements of their own capabilities. The staff ensure that the children remain safe by:

- Supporting the children to develop a sense of their own boundaries and manage personal risks
- Discussion with the children about how to keep themselves safe
- Establish and display expectations of behaviour
- Talk to the children and support decisions
- Carry out health and safety checks
- Distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable risks and remove any hazards
- All staff will be offered training, if necessary, to develop their knowledge and understanding of risky play



This policy was reviewed at a meeting of	Poppleton Road OOSC	
Held in:	Nov 2023	
To be reviewed in:	Nov 2024	
Signed on behalf of the setting:		
Name of Signatory:		
Role of Signatory:	Manager	Deputy Manager