

Play

Mr H Out of School Club

Play Policy

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.

According to the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2017)*, “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.”

At Mr H Out of School Club we recognise the importance of play to a child’s development and follow the Play work Principles. As play workers we support and facilitate play, and do not seek to control or direct it. We will never force children to participate in play, but allow children to initiate and direct the experience for themselves.

Facilitating play

We support and facilitate play by:

- Providing an environment which is safe and suitable for playing
- Setting up the Club so that activities are ready before the children arrive where possible.
- Providing a range of equipment, resources and activities on a daily basis.
- Encouraging children to request additional or alternative equipment as they choose, and if a request has to be refused, explaining
- Not expecting children to be occupied at all
- Making outdoor play available every day, unless the weather is particularly bad or it is too dark. In these cases indoor run around games will be organized.
- Involving children in generating ideas for activities, to reflect their own interests and

- Planning activities that enable children to develop their natural curiosity and
- Allowing children freedom of creative expression, particularly in artistic or creative
- Intervening in play only when necessary: to reduce risks of accident or injury, or to encourage appropriate social
- Warning children in advance when an activity or game is due to
- We hold regular children's focus groups to consult about activities, resources and general ideas for running the club.

Play areas and equipment

- All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked and risk assessed daily before the children arrive in accordance with our **Risk Assessment**
- The Senior Managers keeps an eye on resources and equipment, and identify where any additional resources are
- Children are involved in selecting additional equipment and resources for use at the
- The resources used at the Club promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line with our **Equalities**
- The Club has a selection of fiction and non-fiction books, suitable for all age