

Hoole Enterprise Trust – Time for You (HETTY)

PLAY POLICY

ALL children and young people need to play; the impulse to play is a biological, a psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and wellbeing of individuals and communities. Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. Our intention is to allow children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interest, in their own way for their own reasons.

The prime focus and essence of play is to support and facilitate play.

To play is to allow one freely explore and make sense of the world, experiment, and express things without fear of judgement.

Our Methods to facilitate children's play

- The role of key person is to support all children and young people in creation of a space in which they can play.
- The environment will be set up prior to children arriving and will include a range of play resources and activities
- Children will be confident in making request for other equipment. Equipment may be used in conjunction with other equipment.
- Children are required to be occupied at all times
- The key person's response to children and young people playing is based on a sound and up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice and based on children's interests.
- The key person chooses an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All adult intervention must balance risk with development benefit and wellbeing of children.
- A record of planned activities/child initiated and play opportunities will be kept and reviewed to ensure that appropriate range of play types are offered.
- The key person recognises that children need to put their own creative style and ideas into their creation such as cooking, arts craft sports.
- Children will be involved in planning activities so that the programme reflects their opinions their thinking and use their imagination in line with British Values
- Children will be given notice by a bang or shake of the tambourine when their play must come to an end and staff will model tidying up and encourage children to tidy up

Outdoor play (Pre-School)

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- Children will be offered access to outdoor play every day, with exception of severe weather conditions
- Any outdoor activities will take place in safe, appropriate supervised spaces.
- Before any outdoor activities commence, safety checks are carried out.
- The club's equipment and resources reflect positive images with regard to culture, ethnicity, gender and disability.
- Activities will be evaluated by staff and children regularly so play experiences and activities can be improved.

Outdoor play (Wraparound care)

- Outdoor play is offered only at after school sessions when the weather is suitable and when suitable play spaces are available to use i.e not being used for a school run club.
- Staff will monitor children entering and exiting school to use the toilet facilities
- Appropriately stocked mini first aid kit is taken outside with a member of staff
- Staff will communicate via walkie talkie when supervising large outdoor spaces such as the field.
- When outdoor play is finished, staff will re-take the register to ensure no children are missing or left outside.

HETTY staff will not facilitate and encourage play opportunities for children, which are deemed to be extremely high risk. We recognise that risk is different for individuals. We support need for risk play and recognise that it is an important aspect of child development.

Equipment & Resources

HETTY will provide a wide range of resources and equipment in order to provide a range of play opportunities and activities and enhance children's play experiences.

Resources will, whenever possible show men and women in a variety of roles and jobs, and people with different abilities being both active and creative. Example of everyday life will portray people from a variety of family groupings and cultural backgrounds in a range of non-stereotypical roles.

We have a policy for Equipment and resources. Please see separate policy for further details.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
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28/04/23	Denise Bowes	24/08/2027
14/05/2025		
24/08/2026		