

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 individual and communities. Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, 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 work 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.

To best facilitate children's play

- The role of play worker 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
- 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 play worker'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.
- Play workers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people's play on the play worker.
- Play workers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All play worker intervention must balance risk with development benefit and wellbeing of children.
- A record of activities and play opportunities will be kept and reviewed to ensure that appropriate range of play types are offered.
- Play workers recognise 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

- Children will be given notice when their play must come to an end. If a play request is refused an explanation will be given.

Outdoor play

- 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.

HETTY staff will facilitate and encourage play opportunities for children, which are deemed to be risky. 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

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.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of HETTY Staff & HETTY Trustees

