

Play Policy

This policy is to inform parents, staff and children of the commitment of Jollytots to promote the wellbeing of children by ensuring a balance between safety, risk and challenge in respect of play provision.

Jollytots recognises that all children are individual and learn and develop in different ways and at different rates. We aim to ensure that individual children’s needs are met in the following ways-

* Staff will make regular observations of the children in their care to assess their level of learning and development and also to find out about individual interests
* Observations will be used to plan play based activities that are appropriate to support and/or extend the child’s needs, interests and next steps
* Observations help practitioners to identify key learning moments and opportunities for extending a child’s development
* Child initiated play is encouraged and extended by adult observation and participation
* A wide range of play based activities are available at all times both indoors and outdoors
* Children will have some structured group time and will also be able to free flow across all areas of the room during session
* Children will have lots of opportunities to benefit from outdoor learning. Staff will take the children to the garden and on local walks as much as possible
* There will be a balance of child led and adult led activities within the session
* Children are encouraged to self select activities and resources to support own learning
* The following ratios are maintained to ensure that safety and well-being of all children attending, 1:3 babies and toddlers, 1:5 2-3 and 1-8 3-4 and 1:10 afterschool

The level of children’s play rises when adults play with them. Adults in the setting help to promote independence and self confidence in the following ways:

* Children are given plenty of time to explore the learning environment and the activities on offer
* Staff use open ended questions to extend children’s knowledge and understanding
* Staff will develop close and supportive relationships with the child so that they feel safe to explore the learning environment from a secure base
* Staff will frequently engage in sustained shared thinking, listening to their ideas, planning activities with the children, supporting and extending their learning
* Staff will work in partnership with parents/carers to share information about the child’s interests, needs and progress
* Jollytots operates an ‘open door policy’, parents are encouraged to be actively engaged in their child’s learning through on-going dialogue
* Staff role model positive attitudes towards play, learning and discovery
* All achievements are celebrated
* Staff work closely together and will share information about children’s needs and the effectiveness of play activities through regular open, honest and respectful communication, in order to provide continuity of care to the children
* Staff will have regular meetings in order for staff to share and discuss ideas, plans and best practice
* Up to date research on child development, ideas and best practice is cascaded to all staff via the manager and deputy manager
* The manager and deputy manager will provide staff with positive role models and will provide praise and/or constructive feedback to staff to ensure staff understand the importance of play
* All staff are encouraged to undertake training appropriate to their needs to ensure that all staff in the setting have the appropriate knowledge about the importance of play and how they can support children’s play experiences

**Equipment**

We aim to regularly review, update and replace resources as necessary and to ensure variety and choice are available to all children.

* We provide a range of toys, equipment and resources that promote all areas of children’s learning and development.
* We plan and provide resources and play based activities based on staff observations of the children’s interests to ensure that challenges are provided and that meets the needs of all children attending Jollytots nursery and afterschool.
* All resources and equipment are checked as they are put out and away to ensure they are in good condition. Any broken, unsafe equipment is disposed of and this is reported to the manager or deputy manager. We will endeavour to replace items as soon as possible.
* We will select resources, materials and equipment that promote positive images of all people that are non- discriminatory and avoid racial, gender or other stereotyping.

This policy was adopted on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Director

Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Manager

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