

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.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) states: "Children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities".

Graitney will endeavour to create a stimulating environment for children that will foster their independence and self-esteem whilst supporting the key components of every child matters:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic well being

At Graitney we recognise the importance of play to a child's development and follow the Playwork Principles. As playworkers 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 in.
- Preparing the setting so that activities are ready before the children arrive.
- Providing a range of equipment, resources and activities on a daily basis, and keeping a record of these to ensure that varied play opportunities are offered.
- Encouraging children to request additional or alternative equipment as they choose, and if a request has to be refused, explaining why.
- Not expecting children to be occupied at all times.
- Making outdoor play available every day, unless the weather is particularly bad.
- Involving children in planning activities, to reflect their own interests and ideas.
- Planning activities that enable children to develop their natural curiosity and imagination.
- We celebrate all cultures and diversities and incorporate this into our planning

- We value every child and celebrate their achievements
- Allowing children freedom of creative expression, particularly in artistic or creative play.
- Intervening in play only when necessary: to reduce risks of accident or injury, or to encourage appropriate social skills.
- Warning children in advance when an activity or game is due to end.
- Encourage children to help tidy up.

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 policy.
- The Setting keeps an inventory of resources and equipment, which is updated regularly and reviewed to identify where any additional resources are required.
- Children are involved in selecting additional equipment and resources for use at the Setting.
- The resources used at the Setting promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line with our Equal Opportunities policy.
- The Setting has a selection of fiction and non-fiction books, suitable for all age ranges.

At Graitney we will carry out observations to reflect on practice and to help children extend their play particularly children in Early Years.