

Play Policy

Policy adopted on:	14 th January 2024
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Last reviewed:	18 th August 2026
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Policy statement

Play is a fundamental aspect of a child's overall development; it is a critical factor in enriching learning and development. The nursery acknowledges the importance of play within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and incorporates play as a key element of the learning experience.

The nursery environment is developed using natural resources that help to develop and inspire the children's creativity and imagination during their play. The nursery aims to ensure that:

Procedures

- Play activities are freely chosen and the nursery will help to ensure that play is fun and enjoyable for children.
- All children have access to a balanced range of play with access to both the indoor and outdoor areas for the majority of the day.
- The nursery listens to children and aims to meet their needs in an inclusive way.
- The nursery recognises the need for play opportunities to be challenging whilst free from unnecessary hazards.
- The nursery reviews practices and resources to establish how children can best be supported in their play.
- Staff create an environment that fosters opportunities for play.
- Play is used to support and develop our planning to extend children's learning experiences. It is important for us to recognise the diversity and complexity of children's play and use our skills and observations to extend children's learning.
- Our role as practitioners is to enable rather than direct the child in accordance with EYFS recommendations.
- The nursery helps and supports parents/carers to understand the value of play in the overall development of children.

Outdoor learning

- The nursery believes that outdoor learning is essential to children's health, development and well-being.
- Outdoor learning compliments indoor learning and is equally important. Playing outdoors enables children to make the most of resources and materials available to them and helps to develop their

ideas without unnecessary interruption. Consequently, it is vital that as an early years setting the nursery maximises the children's opportunities outdoors.

- The outdoor learning environment is planned so that all seven areas of learning specified in the Early Years Foundation Stage can be met through play.
- The nursery aims to use our whole environment as an extension to our indoor classrooms so the children can freely use both indoors and outdoors. Statistics show that children are happiest when outside and thrive in the natural environment.
- Our outdoor areas are fully risk assessed and are checked on a daily basis. Staff follow correct procedures i.e. staff/child ratios, making sure areas are safe, monitoring play, etc.
- The nursery asks that all parents/carers be aware of our outdoor learning and dress their children appropriately for the weather conditions.
- Observations are made on the children's learning developments whilst playing outside.