

# Play Policy

**This policy has been updated in light of the COVID pandemic.**

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.

“Play is essential for children’s development building their confidence as they learn to explore to think about problems and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.”

## **Aim:**

At **Venture Kids** we aim to 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 allow children to initiate and direct the experience for themselves. We believe that if we focus on play, development will take care of itself.

## **Facilitating play**

We support and facilitate play by:

- Providing an environment which stimulates and facilitates many different play types.
- 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 when possible.
- Involving children in planning activities, to reflect their own interests and ideas.
- Planning activities that enable children to develop their natural curiosity and imagination.
- 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, to encourage appropriate social skills, or to protect the play space and flow.
- Making children aware in advance of when an activity or game is due to end.
- **As a direct result of the COVID pandemic certain elements of Playwork are restricted.**
- **We cannot allow the children to play as freely in the Venture Kids space.**
- **The play pods will be equipped with resources, toys and equipment.**
- **Play pod sizes are limited to a maximum of 12 children, thereby hindering the freedom of children to mix with others.**

## **Play areas and equipment**

- All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked daily before the children arrive in accordance with our **Risk/Benefit Assessment** policy.
- **The premises are cleaned and sanitised throughout the day to prevent the spread of infection.**
- **Outside space can only be accessed by one play pod at a time and must be thoroughly cleaned and sanitised between uses.**
- The Club 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 Club.

- The resources used at the Club promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line with our **Equal Opportunities** policy.
- The Club has a selection of fiction and non-fiction books, suitable for all age ranges.
- **Whilst the COVID pandemic has significantly impacted the freedom and choice and independence of the children, we still strive to provide the best childcare and play opportunities as possible.**

Reviewed by: Siobhan McIlwaine	Date: 9/7/20
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