



Care, Play and Activities

The play experiences and the atmosphere of our Nursery aim to encourage children and young people's confidence, independence and enjoyment. Our work has, as its core, the aim of enabling children to develop their emotional, social, cognitive, interpersonal and physical skills, and their desire to explore, discover and be creative.

The nursery recognises that children and young people's capacity for positive development will be enhanced if given access to the broadest range of environments and play opportunities.

Our Nursery endorses the following play work principles:

- All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and wellbeing of individuals 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 of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.
- The prime focus and essence of play work is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education.
- For staff, the play process takes precedence and staff act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.
- The role of our staff is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.
- The staff's response to children and young people playing is based on a sound, up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice.
- Staff recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people's play on the staff.
- Staff choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All staff intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and well-being of children.

Activities are carefully planned to allow children to build on their natural curiosity, advance their thinking, use their imagination and develop positive social

relationships. At all times, the Nursery will recognise a child's individuality, effort and achievement.

The toys and equipment in nursery provide opportunities for children, with adult help, to develop new skills and concepts of their play and exploration. The equipment the Nursery provides:

- Is appropriate for the ages and stages of the children.
- Offers challenges to developing physical, social, personal and intellectual skills.
- Features positive images of people, both male and female, from a range of ethnic and cultural groups, with and without disabilities.
- Includes a range of raw materials which can be used in a variety of ways and encourages an open-ended approach to creativity and problem solving.
- Will enable children, with adult support, to develop individual potential and move towards required learning goals.
- Confirms to all relevant safety regulations and is sound and well-made.

Wherever appropriate, children will be involved in the process of planning activities so that the programme reflects their opinions, and so that children feel some ownership over their Nursery. Such processes will be governed by the procedures set out in the Involving and Consulting Children policy.

Staffing arrangements will provide opportunities for:

- reflecting on practice.
- recognising that working with children is a complex, challenging and demanding task and that often there are no easy answers.
- acknowledging that learning is a shared process and that children learn most effectively when, with the support of a knowledgeable and trusted adult, they are actively involved and interested.

Staff will display flexible styles of leadership and respond appropriately to children according to their age, understanding and needs. Staff will support, recognise and promote achievements by all children.

The Nursery will provide children with a range of equipment and resources appropriate to their age and interests, according to the provisions of the Equipment and Resources policy.

Children will be offered access to outdoor play every day, subject to weather conditions. No child will ever be left unsupervised during activities at the Nursery.

The Staff will ensure that time is managed properly, so as to allow for activity sessions to be evaluated.

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:

..... Chairperson

This policy was updated by the Manager and staff and will be updated annually.
Next due to be updated: September 2021

“Horspath Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, families and staff at all times.”