

BARTON KIDS CLUB



Play

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.

According to the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021)*, “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.”

At Barton Kids Club we recognise the importance of play to a child’s development and follow the Playwork Principles. As play workers we support and facilitate play, and do not seek to control or direct it. We do not 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.
- Setting up the Club so that activities are ready for when the children arrive.
- Offer varied play opportunities through providing a range of equipment, resources and activities on a daily basis.
- Encouraging children to request additional or alternative equipment as they choose, and if a request has to be refused, explaining why.
- Allowing children to move freely between activities.
- Not expecting children to be occupied at all times.
- Making outdoor play available every day, unless the weather is particularly bad.
- Providing activities that enable children to develop their natural curiosity and imagination.
- Encouraging children to try activities which are outside their comfort zone, such as risky play.
- 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 provide requested support, to encourage appropriate social skills or for organisational reasons.

Play areas and equipment

- All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked and risk assessed daily before the children arrive.
- The resources used at the Club promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities.
- The Club has a selection of fiction and non-fiction books, suitable for all age ranges.
- Children’s ideas and preferences are taken into consideration when selecting additional equipment and resources for use at the Club.

This policy was adopted by: Barton Kids Club	Date: January 2022
To be reviewed: 2023	Signed: Linda Hoenes, Manager