

PLAY

Statement of Intent

It is our intention to encourage children to learn, thrive and develop through a wide range of well planned indoors and outdoors play.

Aim

We aim to encourage children to play and learn with enjoyment. We recognize that children behave in many different ways while they are playing, they may be noisy or quiet, sometimes a child might enthusiastically describe with a practitioner exactly what they are doing and at other times they may be quiet and reflective. Children who play in a secure environment where they are encouraged by effective staff support will be able to:

- Explore and develop learning experiences that help them make sense of the world;
- Practice and build on ideas, concepts and skills;
- Learn self-discipline and understand the need for rules;
- Be on their own, or with others or co-operate as they talk and express their feelings;
- Learn to take risks and learn from their mistakes;
- Think creatively and imaginatively;
- Communicate with others while they are investigating or solving problems;
- Express their fears or re-live anxious experiences in a controlled and safe situation.

Methods

In order to achieve this aim, we operate the following play policy.

- We plan and resource a challenging environment.
- We support children's learning through a planned activity programme.
- We support and extend children's spontaneous play;
- We extend children's language and communication in their play;
- We encourage children to learn for themselves;
- We support, build on and develop what children already know and to extend their interests;
- We help children to become involved in all activities and to assist their concentration so that they can learn effectively;
- We use materials which positively reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping;
- We plan challenging opportunities for the more able child;

- We monitor children’s progress and achievements and identify any areas of concern.
- We give children the opportunity to choose which equipment/toys/activities they wish to use, on a daily basis.

Outdoor Play

The Pre-school has a large enclosed garden that is used throughout the year. The garden is surrounded by protected woodland providing a source of materials for projects on nature study and the environment.

We are able to use the garden all year except in severe weather conditions. We are able to use a variety of equipment to continue our activities outdoors ensuring the activities offered cover the prime and specific areas of children's learning and development.

Before the garden is used the following safety checks are made:

- The area is cleared of any items that may cause injury, e.g. broken glass.
- The gate is secure and locked.
- Weather condition.

This Policy was agreed and adopted by a Committee Meeting held on	
Signed	For and on behalf of Marlow Bottom Pre-school CIO

This policy was reviewed and amended as necessary at a Committee Meeting held on	
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