



## Play Policy

**Play is a fundamental aspect of a child's overall development; it is a critical factor in enriching learning and development. Kinnerton Little Acorns acknowledges the importance of play within the Early Years Foundation Phase (EYFP) and beyond and incorporates play as a key element of the learning experience for all ages who attend our club.**

**Kinnerton Little Acorns' environment is developed using natural resources such as wooden blocks, pine cones and other open ended resources avoiding too much plastic. This is purposeful to help develop and inspire the children's creativity and imagination during their play.**

**Kinnerton Little Acorns aims to ensure that:**

- Play activities are freely chosen and the setting 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.
- We listen to children and aims to meet their needs in an inclusive way.
- We recognise the need for play opportunities to be challenging whilst free from unnecessary hazards.
- We appreciate that hazards do come into the throws of everyday life and we educate our children about risk taking and afford them to opportunities to take risks in a controlled environment.
- We review 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.

- We help and support parents/carers to understand the value of play in the overall development of children.

### **Outdoor learning**

- We believe that outdoor learning is essential to children’s health, development and well-being.
- Outdoor learning compliments indoor learning and is equally important. Play and learning that flow seamlessly between indoors and outdoors enables children to make the most of resources and materials available to them and develop their ideas without unnecessary interruption. Consequently, it is vital that as an early years setting the setting maximises the children’s opportunities outdoors.
- We aim 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 setting asks that all parents/carers be aware of our outdoor learning philosophy and dress their children appropriately for the weather conditions.
- Observations are made on the children’s learning developments whilst playing outside.
- We encourage parents/carers to talk to the relevant Childcare Lead if they have any concerns about outside play.

<b>This Play Policy and procedure was passed for use in Kinnerton Little Acorns</b>	
On: 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	
By: Kayleigh Ho	Position: Administrative Manager
Date of planned review: 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2024	