

Twilight Hours After School Club

Play Policy

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. It is also a key component of a healthy lifestyle, enabling good physical, emotional, mental and social development. At its most successful it offers children and young people as much choice, control and freedom as possible.

At Twilight Hours we recognise the importance of play to a child's development. As play workers we support and facilitate play, and do not seek to control or direct it. We will never 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.
- 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 every day, unless the weather is particularly bad.
- 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, or to encourage appropriate social skills.
- Warning children in advance when an activity or game is due to end.
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Play areas and equipment

- All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked and risk assessed daily before the children use them.
- Twilight Hours 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 Twilight Hours
- The resources used at Twilight Hours promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line with our **Equal Opportunities** policy.

This policy was adopted by: Twilight Hours ASC	Date:	Policy No: PP 002
To be reviewed:	Signed:	
Policy Name: Play Policy	Signed:	