



Kinder Croft CIC

Play Policy

Relevant Policies and Guidance:

- Kinder Croft Site and Activity Risk Assessments
- Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010
- The Health and Social Care Standards (2017)
- The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- GIRFEC and SHANARRI wellbeing indicators
- Curriculum for Excellence / Realising the Ambition
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (as applied in Scotland)

Policy Statement:

Play is essential for all aspects of a child's development. It provides children with experiences which enable them to develop a wide range of capabilities. In doing so it provides a rich context for the development of their creativity, imagination, language and encourages positive attitudes towards a healthy lifestyle.

Play should be seen as an integral part of nursery provision. Whilst children are involved in self-chosen activities, they move freely between zones using the resources which best meet their needs on a daily basis, all the year round. As an outdoor nursery we have different zones within our site offering a range of different interactions – from unmodified woodland, to areas with lots of loose natural materials, to safe places for hiding and dens, to gardens and mud laboratories and more. The provision and planning for play must reflect the diversity and richness of the experience and developing interests of the children.

Our aim is to provide a stimulating environment for children's learning in all areas of the nursery curriculum. Informed observation is essential in order to assess children's ability and to ensure appropriate planning and continuity for the curriculum.

The outdoors is the ideal environment for experiential learning, because it offers unique opportunities to be creative, to move around, to be noisy and learn about risks. The outdoors is full of special stimuli such as weather, sounds, smells and textures which can enrich and enhance a child's learning environment. Being outdoors enhances all aspects of children's development.



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Zones in the Woodland and beyond

Zone 1 – woodland nursery site including toilets, shelter and fire pit

Zone 2 – access tracks throughout the forest

Zone 3 – adjacent Croft including planned poly-tunnels, orchard and pond.

Zone 4 – wider woodland including open mossy areas, streams and loose materials

Zone 5 - spruce wood area to be developed into a broadleaves.

Areas to be visited occasionally - neighbouring birch woodland.

Observing and planning play

Staff must consider the following points:

- the specific purpose of the play
- The type of play eg. individual (when a child is at play alone, space must be provided), co-operative, parallel play
- skills, knowledge, concepts and attitudes to be acquired/developed by the children
- appropriate use of resources
- staff interaction, guidance and support
- balance/breadth of curriculum provision
- alteration, addition or removal of resources
- Appropriate risk taking and maintain child protection
- Adaptations required for children with additional support needs and to ensure inclusion

The Role of the staff

Staff should be actively involved with children in their games and activities where appropriate and should not always be in a supervisory role.

Staff should be:

- talking with children in a variety of ways (conversing, discussing, questioning, modelling and commentating)
- supporting children to find solutions to problems
- supporting, encouraging
- extending their activities by making extra resources available and providing new ideas



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- initiating games and activities
- joining in games and activities when invited by children
- observing, assessing and recording
- being aware of safety issues
- being aware of every child's equal right of access to a full outdoor curriculum which is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated regardless of race, culture, religion, gender or disability
- evaluating observations in order to plan appropriate resources and experiences
- providing role models for appropriate clothing i.e. hats, coats, boots to suit weather conditions.

In these ways staff are making positive contributions to the children's play and setting up challenging situations for children to experience.

Safety in zones

- When setting out the equipment each day and during sessions, staff must look out for safety and judge if any object poses an unacceptable level of risk.
- Staff must always be aware of the safety of the children in their care, be vigilant at all times and never lose sight of the children under their care.
- 2 members of staff will be with the children at all times and members of staff will be the key adult for smaller groups within this (roles including monitoring and evaluation for learning plan).
- Water is provided for all on hot days and sun cream applied.
- Visitors, parents and students helpers, volunteers must never be left unsupervised with the children.
- If a child is injured he/she should be in the care of a member of staff as quickly as possible and another member of staff on hand to ensure the continued observation and care of the other children.
- Details of the accident must be written up as soon as possible in the incident book. The child's parent must be informed of the accident and treatment given.
- Care Inspectorate must be informed about an injury to the head or those requiring a visit to the GP or Hospital.
- Children's clothing should be monitored carefully e.g. unfastened shoe laces and buckles, sandals, scarves and ties on anoraks which are too long can easily cause accidents.
- Children are encouraged to climb and balance independently and to be aware of the level of their own abilities. Staff should offer encouragement whilst being aware of their own safety.
- Encourage children to look before jumping, climbing, throwing or sliding; also



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encourage children to leave space between themselves and the child in front when crossing planks or climbing up/down apparatus.

- The staff: child ratio of at least 1:8 (more regularly 1:6) must always be maintained in the outdoors environment.

Verified: Joni Mackay (Manager)

Date: 16/07/26

Date of next review: 16/07/27 (or before as required)

This policy has been drafted by Joni Mackay and AI has been used to check the document is legal, correct and fair under Scot's Law and considers the ethics of Kinder Croft CIC.