



The Cabin Crew Out of School Club Play Policy

All children, regardless of age, culture, background or ability, want and need to play. To children, playing is one of the most important aspects of their lives. Play is essential to children's health, wellbeing, happiness and development, building confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and to relate to others. Most importantly, playing contributes to children's ability to thrive and survive.

The Cabin Crew aims to make a positive contribution to children's lives by valuing their urge and desire to play and providing for a broad range of play opportunities.

We seek to create a varied and interesting environment that stimulates social, physical, creative, emotional and intellectual play. We offer indoor play space, outdoor open space, adventure playground, woodland areas and a range of objects and materials (loose parts) that children can select, maximising the choice and control children have over their play.

The Cabin Crew recognises that children will naturally create and or seek out challenging situations; while making the most of their play we acknowledge that some children may have accidents or hurt others. This is a natural part of play and should not be eradicated from the children's play experience. Accidents happen during our out of school and holiday sessions, and are dealt with by trained first aiders and details recorded on our accident report forms. We regularly review these reports to identify patterns or possible dangerous situations. We recognise that any potential risk of harm to children needs to be balanced with the potential for good that may come from their taking part in a particular form of play. We will do our best to avoid children coming to serious physical or emotional harm by carefully managing the play opportunities that we provide.

We offer opportunities for messy play at The Cabin Crew. This may include painting, mud and water play and sensory activities. We recommend that parents/carers provide additional, old clothing which may be stored at the club for these activities. Whilst we can strive to ensure that uniforms are covered during messy play, we believe children should be allowed to experiment and that this is important for their development.

The Cabin Crew will:

- recognise children's right to play as contained in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991.
- provide resources that are based on children's interests and supports individual children's needs to ensure all children enjoy themselves.
- Recognise and allows children to engage in the 15 types of play taken from Bob Hughes Taxonomy of Play types.
- aim to manage the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.

- support staff to undertake Playwork or relevant training to keep knowledge and practice current, and to enable them to feel confident in supporting children’s self-directed, freely chosen play.

We believe that adult’s attitude towards, and understanding of, children’s play behaviour will have a significant effect on the quality of the play opportunities offered within the club. To ensure the child’s best play experience

The Playworker will:

- wait to be invited to play, ensuring they don’t monopolise or manipulate the child’s play.
- not interrupt or organise when the child is trying to play unless the child asks for help.
- leave the content of play to the child.
- let the child decide why they play. Children should not be offered prizes or put under pressure to engage in an activity.
- enable the child to explore their own values. This may involve behaving in ways which adults may regard as inappropriate or risky.
- support the child to decide what appropriate behaviour is. As far as is practicable.

The Cabin Crew operates in accordance with the Playwork Principles:

1. All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and wellbeing of individuals and communities.
2. Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.
3. The prime focus and essence of play work is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education.
4. For playworkers, the play process takes precedence and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.
5. The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in the creation of space in which they can play.
6. The playworkers response to children and young people playing is based on a sound up to date knowledge of play process and reflective practice.
7. Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people’s play on the playworker.
8. Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All playworker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and wellbeing of children.

This policy was adopted by The Cabin Crew Out of School Club.	Date: April 14 th 2023
To be reviewed: 14/04/2024	Signed: <i>Justine Reilly</i>
Name of signatory: Justine Reilly	Role of signatory: Manager