

39: Care, Learning, Play and Equipment

The programme of activities and the atmosphere of Superkids aims to promote and encourage confidence, independence and enjoyment. Our primary goal is enabling children to develop their emotional, social, cognitive, interpersonal and physical skills, and their desire to explore, discover and be creative.

According to the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2017), “Play is essential for children’s development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.”

At Superkids we recognise the importance of play to a child’s development and follow the Play work Principles. 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.

Superkids will provide a well-planned and organised play environment that offers children rich and stimulating experiences, alongside opportunities to explore, experiment, plan and make decisions for themselves. Children are encouraged to be confident and independent, and every effort is made to develop their self-esteem and learning through play.

The programme of activities is developed following children’s interests, to allow children to build on their natural curiosity, develop their language and mathematical thinking, use their imagination and develop positive social relationships. The setting recognises and takes into account the differing ages, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children. At all times, the setting will recognise a child’s individuality, effort and achievement.

Wherever appropriate, children will be involved in the process of planning activities so that the programme reflects their opinions, and so that children feel some ownership over their setting. Such processes will be governed by the procedures set out in the Involving and Consulting Children policy.

Please Note: The Learning and Development, and assessment requirements set out in the EYFS Statutory Framework do not apply to Out of School settings

Facilitating play

We support and facilitate play by:

- Providing an environment which is safe and suitable for playing in.
- Setting up the Club so that activities are ready before the children arrive.
- 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 or site event does not permit it.
- 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.

Staffing

Staffing arrangements will provide opportunities for:

- Reflection on practice.
- The realisation that working with children is a complex, challenging and demanding task and that often there are no easy answers.
- Learning as a shared process; children learn most effectively when, with the support of a knowledgeable and trusted adult, they are actively involved and interested.

Staff will display flexible styles of leadership and respond appropriately to children according to their age, understanding and needs.

Staff will support, recognise and promote achievements by all children.

Superkids will provide children with age-appropriate equipment and resources appropriate to their interests, according to the provisions of the Equipment policy.

Children will be offered access to outdoor play every day, subject to weather conditions.

No child will ever be left unsupervised during activities at the setting.

The programme of activities will be displayed on the noticeboard where it is accessible to all children and to their parents/carers, including start and finish times.

Outdoor play

Outdoor play opportunities are included in planning and offer opportunities for all areas of learning including imaginative play, construction, horticultural play, scientific and environmental and quiet play.

We encourage children to take an active part and interest in their external surroundings by observing the seasons and growing cycle.

Outdoor play promotes:

- Physical skills in gross motor movement
- Opportunities for co-operation, language development and independence
- Vital mathematical, scientific and creative exploration

All children will be given the opportunity to play outside in all weathers. Parents are asked to provide suitable outdoor wear.

When all the children are outside, staff will deploy themselves to ensure that all children are adequately supervised and supported and learning opportunities extended. Staff will designate the play areas/boundaries according to activities and safety of children, ensuring that children are visible and supervised at all times.

A full range of experiences are provided outside to ensure that children are appropriately challenged

Equipment

Superkids is committed to providing children with access to a wide range of equipment that stimulates enjoyment, learning and development, both indoors and outdoors.

Play areas and equipment

- All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked, and risk assessed daily before the children arrive in accordance with our Risk Assessment policy.
- The Club 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 the Club.
- The resources used at the Club promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line with our Equalities policy.
- The Club has a selection of fiction and non-fiction books, suitable for all age ranges.

All furniture, toys and equipment are of suitable design, kept clean, well maintained and in good repair and in accordance with BS EN safety standards or the Toys (Safety) Regulations (1995) where applicable.

Equipment will be properly maintained and inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All electrical toys and equipment are subject to PAT (Portable Appliance Testing), and that relevant staff are trained on the correct use of computers and other IT equipment. Levels of staff supervision will be sufficient to ensure that the safety of children is assured and set according to the type of equipment being used, along with the ages and number of children involved in a given activity.

All equipment and resources will be selected with care, and risk assessments carried out before new toys and equipment are purchased according to the principles of the Risk Assessment policy.

Superkids has equipment and resources suitable for all children currently in attendance, including those with special educational needs, physical disabilities and for any child whose first language is not English.

Superkids equipment and resources reflects positive images with regard to culture, ethnicity, gender, and disability.

Resources will, whenever possible, show men and women in a variety of roles and jobs, and people with different abilities being both active and creative. Examples of everyday life will portray people from a variety of family groupings and cultural backgrounds in a range of non-stereotypical roles.

The setting provides a wide selection of books that are regularly updated, as financial resources allow. The selection will always include reference books, dual language books and a range of age-appropriate formats. Staff are encouraged to select books that reflect a multicultural society, challenge stereotypes, and which meet the educational needs of the children.

Outside Superkids opening hours, all equipment will be kept in a suitable and secure location safe from unauthorised access or use. When discovered, defective or broken equipment will be taken out of use and stored in a safe place before being disposed of. Flammable equipment will be stored in a safe location away from sources of heat and/or naked flames.

There will be a named member of staff with responsibility for planning and reviewing the stock of equipment every three months, and annually updating the setting's Inventory Record.

The Inventory Record will be kept on the Setting's records and be updated whenever a new item is added or when an old item is removed from use.

The manager, or designated member of staff, will keep a formal record of any item of equipment loaned to a member of staff, a voluntary organisation or a parent/carer to ensure that it is returned on time and in a good state. Requests for loan of equipment must be authorised in advance by the Registered Person.

The policy was adopted by Superkids Club	Date:15.04.2020
To be reviewed: April 2021	Signed: Jo Murray & Jessica Baker

Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2017): Learning and Development requirements [1.1 footnote 5; 1.8]; Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment [3.64.]