

Play Policy



Shining Stars Nursery Policy

VERSION CONTROL SHEET

POLICY NAME: Play Policy

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Introduction

Play helps young children to learn and develop through doing and talking, which research has shown to be the means by which young children learn to think. Our setting uses the practice guidance from The Reformed Early Years Foundation Stage to plan and provide a range of play activities which help children to make progress in each of the areas of learning and development. In some of these activities children decide how they will use the activity and, in others, an adult takes the lead in helping the children to take part in the activity.

At Shining Stars nursery we recognise the importance of providing a safe, stimulating outdoor environment ensuring children have varied opportunities, sensory experiences and connections with nature. The outdoor environment should enable children to adopt free flow play opportunities within both the indoor and outdoor environment, consequently offering strengthened learning. Outdoor play enables children to experiment their thoughts on a larger scale and it fosters particular development schemas such as transportation or trajectory.

Outdoor Play

Outdoor play at Shining Stars is vital for the following reasons:

- it supports child and physical development, helping children live active lifestyles.
- it offers children fresh air, freedom of space and opportunities for sensory exploration.
- it allows children to experiment on a large scale and develop their thoughts and learning further.
- it allows children to be independent and build on their existing development.
- it enables children to take risks and with the help from practitioners children will gradually learn to take small and measured risks.

- it provides particular strong links to exploration and learning surrounding the weather, changes in the seasons, animal and creatures, transport and environmental sounds.
- it enables children to experiment with their thoughts and ideas on a larger scale.
- it fosters particular development of schemas, such as trajectory and transportation.

At Shining Stars we make sure the outdoor areas are checked thoroughly to make sure it is safe and secure for the children to access.

We ask that parent/carers provide the appropriate clothing and equipment for the relevant weathers (for example sun hats and cream, or wellington boots and rain coats).

Gender and Play

Gender is referred to with regards to the sex of an individual. Gender is viewed as a social construct; therefore the social interactions between adults and children play a key role in gender and children's play. Stereotypical behaviours associated with particular genders can sometimes be encouraged or conveyed by adults unconsciously. For example: Girls can be discouraged from participating in boisterous activities and boys can be discouraged from undertaking sedentary activities.

As a setting, Shining Stars Nursery ensures that all staff act as positive role models by providing a range of gender play opportunities and are open minded to children's individual interests. We recognise that gendered play is common for children and we therefore facilitate further learning by providing children with differentiated resources.