



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. According to the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, “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 Mighty Oaks Before and After School Club 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 pressurise 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 for the children to choose from.
- Not expecting children to be occupied at all times.
- Making outdoor play available every day, weather permitting.
- 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.
- Give children notice in advance when an activity or game is due to end.

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 resources used at the Club promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line with our Equal Opportunities Policy.
- The Club has a selection of fiction and non-fiction books, suitable for all age ranges.
- Children are involved in selecting additional equipment and resources for use at the Club.

<u>This policy was adopted by:</u> Mighty Oaks Before and After School Club	<u>Date agreed:</u> 1 st August 2020
<u>To be reviewed:</u> August 2022	<u>Signatures:</u> Club Manager: Epworth Trust:

