



Child Participation Policy

At The Nurture Circle Ltd. we believe that actively promoting the participation of children in the decision-making process creates a sense of community and ownership and benefits everyone at Nature Club: children, staff and parents. We therefore involve the children whenever decisions are made that affect them. Nature club and forest school ethos naturally fosters child-led participation and we actively encourage parents to engage with this opportunity for their children to lead the way

We follow the principles set out in Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which state that:

- A child's opinion should be taken into account in anything that affects them.
- Children should have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

Involving and consulting children helps them to develop new skills such as negotiation, sharing, and understanding the perspectives of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made, and shows them that their opinions are important. At Nature Club we actively consult the children and encourage them to participate in making decisions about what happens at Nature Club through:

- Asking questions and paying full attention to the child's response, listening to what they are saying verbally (or through use of visual aids and offering choices) and also observing their body language
- Group discussions and shared experiences
- Regular reflections and observations on activities and play with the children
- Offering children the opportunity to choose activities, resources and areas to play in
- Parental feedback

The age and maturity of each child, together with the type of the decision being made, determine the extent and nature of their involvement, however, the basic assumption is always that children will be involved and are capable of knowing their own needs, wants and interests with the more opportunity provided. We make sure that we act authentically on any interactions with the children so that they can see that their input has had visible outcomes.

At the Club the children have the opportunity to participate and make decisions on a day-to-day basis, including, but not limited to:

- Choosing freely what type of play to engage in
- Choosing what snacks to eat, as well as when and where to eat them
- Selecting different activities and equipment to use
- Drawing up club rules and negotiating experiences with peers and adults
- Using our resources to create activities and experiences and set up site
- Using democracy to vote on group decisions
- Activity planning through reflection and initiating ideas/ leading experiences and group games
- Conducting site safety walks and risk-benefit assessments
- To take care and responsibility for our site

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the company	Date for review
<i>07/06/2021</i>	<i>Geri Weeks</i>	<i>07/06/2022 or before</i>

