



## Play Policy

Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.

Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, EYFS reforms early adopter version 2020

At the Nurture Circle we are strong believers in the powers of play and as such structure our sessions to allow time for forest freedom play – allowing children the freedom to explore, discover, imagine and interact independently. Our role as Forest school leaders is to observe the interests and motivations of our children and support a diverse range of play opportunities within the context of a forest school session.

### The benefits of play the forest school way...

Forest school offers opportunities for rich and diverse play environments with natural open-ended resources that inspire imagination, creativity and problem solving skills. Risky play opportunities are readily available and the open-ended possibilities allow children to generate their own ideas for exploration. Children meet challenges that build resilience and develop self-awareness to manage risks according to their own abilities and confidence. Children are the leaders of their experiences in play and don't have time constraints setting the structure for their play experiences themselves, either collaborating with others or exploring their interests independently. They are given the time and space for self-discovery and to follow their own play agendas.

### Facilitating play

We support and facilitate play by:

- Providing an environment which is safe and suitable for playing in.
- Having a flexible play plan and ideas for children to set up their own activities and play structures.
- Providing a range of equipment, resources and activities on a weekly basis, and keeping a record of these to ensure that varied play opportunities are offered
- Giving children the freedom to choose 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.
- Providing outdoor play exclusively every session
- 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.
- Allowing time for uninterrupted play and making judgements for transitions that are sensitive to the needs of children.

### **Play areas and equipment**

- All outdoor play areas are checked and risk assessed daily before the children arrive in accordance with our Risk Assessment policy.
- The Nurture Circle Ltd. 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 Nature Club.
- The resources reflect the forest school ethos, cultural capital of our children and families and promote positive relationships with our woodland environments

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