



Play Policy

Holy Corner Community Playgroup's values are 'Community' and 'Play'.

We are a community working together to create a valued play space for local families and carers to bring young children to play.

We recognize that all children and young people have an innate need to play for healthy development. We embrace the definition of play as: 'freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons'. (*The Playwork Principles, Play Wales 2015*)

We uphold children's right to play in line with Article 31 of the UNCRC which states that 'every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities (UNCRC, 1989). We have pledged to Scotland's Play Charter, part of the collective commitment to play for all children and young people .

Practitioners incorporate playwork to support and facilitate the play process. We take a risk benefit approach to creating a safe space for play for all children.

We provide and maximise a range of free play opportunities and experiences both indoors and outdoors for all children in our care. We do this through our respect for the internal processes of play in individual children, and the affordances of the environment, sustainable resources and loose parts, as well as time for young children to explore the world around them, with freedom and fun and in a reflective and unhurried way. Play pedagogy is an essential part of our planning for learning, responsively and intentionally, and to support individual children's progress over time.

Adults recognize the impact they have on the play space. The adult's role is to observe and listen to children in all the ways they communicate, in verbal and non-verbal forms and being responsive to children's needs. We have respect for the process of play for its own sake. We support a 'slow pedagogy' to children's learning ensuring that there is space and time for play, creativity and interactions alongside the tools of guidance and curriculum.

Practitioners receive training in play and playwork as part of their CPD, and use play models for evaluation and quality assurance to ensure that we uphold children's right to play.