



Fir Tree Junior School

Fir Tree Fun Time After School Club

Guidance for Play

The main focus in the club is on play and providing opportunities for both indoor and outdoor play.

The Play Leader and Play Workers are advocates for play and will promote play to all the children in their care. The Play Leader holds a Level 3 Qualification in Playwork and the Play workers hold either a Level 2 Qualification or are working towards it. They believe that play is an important part of a child's life and that all children should have the opportunity to play.

There is both indoor and outdoor space to play in where the children can either take part in physical play or create their own play spaces. It is the responsibility of the staff to ensure there are a variety of toys, games and resources available and the environment in which the children play in is clean and safe. The staff are at hand to support and encourage creative play experiences, as well as allowing the children to create their own play activities.

By allowing the children to play, they are learning lots of skills such as team work, resilience, cooperation, sharing, compromise, dealing with conflict and other social skills.

Our main principles of play are:

1. All children and young people need to play. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and well-being of individuals and communities.
2. Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, the children 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.

3. The prime focus and essence of playwork is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education.

4. For play workers, the play process takes precedence and play workers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.

5. The role of the play worker is to support the children in the creation of a space in which they can play.

6. The play worker's response to children playing is based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process and reflective practice.

7. Play workers choose an intervention style that enables children to extend their play. All play worker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and well-being of children.