



Play and Active learning policy

Seahorses Flying Start aim to provide a safe and secure environment for children to explore, experiment, learn and develop through play activities. We as a setting value the importance of play and children in our society.

Staff at Seahorses believe that:

- Play is the elemental learning process by which humankind has developed.
- Children exhibit a behavioural imperative and instinctive desire to play.
- Children use play in the natural environment to learn of the world they inhabit with others.
- Play is the very process of learning and growth, and as such all that is learnt through it is of benefit to the child.
- Play encompasses children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated.
- Play is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development - not only for individual children, but also for the society in which they live.
- Play is so critically important to all children in the development of their physical, social, mental, emotional and creative skills that society should seek every opportunity to support it and create an environment that fosters it.
- Play is first and foremost the process of a child's own, self-directed learning and as such is a process that has a validity for all ages of children.
- Play is such a vital component of a child's life that the child's capacity for positive development will be inhibited or constrained if denied free access to the broadest range of environments and play opportunities.
- Play is the very freedom and child centeredness of play that makes it such an effective and comprehensive learning process.
- Every child is entitled to respect for their own unique combination of qualities and capabilities.
- The perceptions of the child, their views and opinions should always be respected for each child is connected to, and a bearer of, a wider culture
- The child's free choice of their own play is a critical factor in enriching their learning and contributing to their well-being and development.
- Seahorses recognise the significance and the value of play in children's development and that children have an innate desire to seek out opportunities to take increasing risks. This is an essential part of their play and learning. It requires us to respond positively by extending the range of environments and opportunities available for children's play while continuing to have due regard for their physical and psychological well-being.



- Seahorses is committed to ensuring that all children have access to rich, stimulating environments, free from inappropriate risk, and full of challenge, thereby offering them the opportunity to explore through freely chosen play both themselves and the world.
- Seahorses recognise that the impact of modern society on children's lives has significantly restricted their opportunity to play freely and has resulted in a poverty of play opportunities in the general environment. It is therefore committed to building on and improving play opportunities in the areas it operates.

Seahorses commits itself to the development in partnership of a strategy that will set out the way in which the principles in this statement can be implemented.

Managers Signature: *Julie Ace*

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