



Starlings Preschool Risky and challenging play policy

Policy statement

At Starlings pre-school we understand the positive impact risky play can have on a child's development and self-esteem, therefore we actively promote children's exposure to taking risks and facing challenges but in a controlled and safe environment.

Some examples of these are:

- using real tools when creating/playing with woodwork, Hammers, screwdrivers.
- playing with toys/resources and taking part in activities suitable for an older age range- such as building towers with Lego bricks, using scissors, threading with small beads.
- outdoor activities such as building with tyres, planks and pallets. Using spades and forks in the mud pit and balancing and jumping from climbing apparatus.

This is no way an exhaustive list but these are examples of activities we offer and resources are available.

Safe use Agreement

- Staff risk assess before each activity takes place.
- Staff get to know each child as an individual and can confidently decide if an activity or resource would be suitable for them. Staff may adapt the activity/resources so that each child can participate in their own way.
- Activities and resources will be supported by a capable and confident adult when and where needed- this could be 1 adult with a small group of children or 1-1 support.
- Children and young people themselves recognise that 'you can't make everything safe' and that a balance is needed between risks and fun.
- Children recognise that knowing about risks and how to manage them is an essential part of growing up. Through play children are able to learn about risks and use their own initiative. If children and young people are not allowed to explore and learn through playing and taking part in positive activities they will not learn how to judge risks and manage for themselves.
- These skills learnt through play and other activities can act as a powerful form of prevention in other situations where children and young people are at risk

(play England, 2007)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Starlings Pre-school (name of provider)

Held on _____ (date)

Date to be reviewed _____ (date)

Signed on behalf of the provider _____

Name of signatory _____

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) _____