

# Pioneer Childcare

## Play Policy

All children are entitled to play; it is intrinsic to their quality of life and an important part of how they learn and enjoy themselves. It is also a key component of a healthy lifestyle, enabling good physical, emotional, mental, and social development. At its most successful it offers children and young people as much choice, control, and freedom as possible.

At Pioneer Childcare we recognise the importance of play to a child's development. Our staff will support and facilitate play. We will never force children to participate in play and will (where possible) allow children to initiate and direct the experience for themselves.

### Facilitating play

We support and facilitate play by:

- Providing an environment which is safe, suitable, and attractive for playing in.
- Ensuring the children have access to a range of activities to enhance their development, such as STEM, physical, creative, games and drama.
- Providing a range of equipment, resources, and activities daily.
- Encourage children to socialise and navigate friendships.
- Recognising that children will be at different stages of development and learning and providing a range of resources and equipment to reflect this.
- Encouraging children to request additional or alternative equipment as they choose, and if a request needs to be refused, explaining why.
- Recognising children may need some quiet, reflective time and providing them space and time to facilitate this.
- Making outdoor play available every day, where possible, unless the weather is particularly bad.
- 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.
- Building relationships to understand and enhance the children's likes, interests, ideas, and suggestions and incorporating these into our planning.
- Warning children in advance when an activity or game is due to end unless circumstances make this impossible (i.e., emergencies).

### Play areas and equipment

All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked, and risk assessed daily before the children arrive in line with individual club risk assessments.

- Staff regularly review their resources and equipment to identify where any additional resources and equipment are required or need replacing.
- Staff review and reflect on their planning and make changes to improve the quality of our care.
- Children are involved in selecting additional equipment and resources for use at club.
- Club resources will reflect and promote diversity.
- Our clubs have a selection of fiction and non-fiction books, suitable for all age ranges.

This policy was adopted by:	Pioneer Childcare Ltd	Date:	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
To be reviewed:	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Signed:	<i>J. Wilkins</i>

Written in accordance with the EYFS welfare requirements: *Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare and Suitable premises, environment and equipment.*