



Play Policy 1066 Kids Club

At 1066 Kids Club we aim to create a welcoming and safe space for children to play, explore and be creative. We value the principles of play and how this contributes to children's wider learning and development.

8 Play Principles

1. All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and wellbeing of individuals and communities.

2. Play is a process that is 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.

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 playworkers, the play process takes precedence and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult-led agendas.

5. The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.

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

7. Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people's play on the playworker.

8. Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All playworker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit

Structure of the day

We will support children to engage in play and our day is structured into free play and whole group activities. During free play children are supervised and supported to play with children and equipment of their choice. If support is required this is given by the adult, sometimes we also suggest a buddy system. Children are encouraged to join in during whole group activities as we feel it's good for them to try new experiences. This is supported by our 1066 kids club rules.

Technology and toys from home

We are a 'no tech' setting and children are not permitted to bring tablets, laptops or other electronic devices from home. At whole group times we may use a white board screen for whole group activities such as just dance, bingo or to watch a film. We also suggest that children do not bring toys from home in case they can get broken or lost/ played with by other children. If a child needs the support of a small cuddly toy from home for comfort this is recommended and put in the child's bag when not needed.

Outside Play

We value the 'great outdoors' and how playing outside can support children's physical, social development and also contribute to wellbeing. Therefore we will play outside every day unless there are severe weather warnings in place. We appreciate parents to support this by providing suitable clothes for the weather eg coats, hats, appropriate shoes etc. We aim to also expose the children to Forest School sessions and structured sports/ team games. These sessions will be led by qualified staff to enhance the quality of the sessions delivered.

Risks and Benefits

All of the activities we undertake at 1066 Kids Club are risk assessed. Staff are given full training on how to undertake activities and oversee children's play safely. Our

behaviour policy also outlines our expectations for children and how we support them to engage in play. We recognise that some children may need additional support to access and play, we also accept children have their own preferences for play style and learning value. We aim to support all children to play and have high quality, enjoyable moments with us. This is supported by our behaviour and equality and diversity policies.

This policy links to our behaviour policy - available on request.

Reviewed 29/10/25