Little Disciples Childcare

Child Participation Policy

"Caring for children, supporting parents, and sparking imaginations – where quality, affordability, and excitement meet!"

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1.0	September 2023	Initial Release for Provider changes	S. Gocher	A. Stephens	Annually – September 2024
2.0	August 2024	Policy Review	S. Gocher	A. Stephens	Annually – August 2025
1.1	January 2025	Minor amendments – Pg numbers and Document Control	S. Gocher	A. Stephens	Annually – August 2025

Policy Statement
At Little Disciples Childcare, we are committed to providing a seamless and cohesive approach to childcare across all our services. This policy and procedure apply equally to both our Nursery Plus provision and our Breakfast, Afterschool, and Holiday Club services. This integrated framework ensures consistent standards of care, safety, and quality across all aspects of our provision, fostering a supportive and nurturing environment for every child in our care.

Child Participation Policy

At Little Disciples Childcare the children in our care are at the centre of all that we do. We believe that children can form their own views and have the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting them. We recognise that being listened to, heard, and being actively involved in decisions will help create a sense of belonging and increase the child's self-esteem.

'Participation means that it is my right to be involved in making decisions, planning, and reviewing any action that might affect me. Having a voice, having a choice' (*National Children and Young People's Participation Standards*)

"Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affects the, and to have their opinions taken into account" (*Article 12: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)*

We are committed to providing a setting where children can participate fully in all aspects of the environment, planning and evaluation process. The setting provides the children the opportunity to do this through.

- Providing an 'ideas' box for the children where the children (depending upon their age and stage of development) are freely able to either draw or write their ideas and post them. During a discussion with a member of staff the child can express their idea and suggest resources, a day which they would like to carry out the activity.
- Observing the children and taking note of their interests, wishes, likes, and dislikes. Staff members record their observations of the children the key points from the observations are then developed into resources, enhancements or activities that are recorded on the monthly planner and provided for the children. These observations are then recorded in individual children's play journals, when we plan for activities, we look through any recent observations to inform our planning.
- On different days each month, Little Disciples childcare holds a Club Council meeting. Club council members and other children who are attending Club on that Afternoon can take part in the meeting. During this, children have a chance to express their views, wishes, ideas, likes and dislikes regarding all elements of the Club. Their views are recorded and in partnership with the children, actions are agreed and then implemented as resources, enhancements, or activities for the children to engage in.
- The views of the children highly sought after and included in all elements of Little Disciples Childcare, including the evaluation of all activities, enhancements, and resources we provide. The children are encouraged to evaluate the activities in a variety of ways:
    - Activity Reflection: After each activity we ask the children for their feedback on the activity completed. They can talk about what they liked, disliked and any changes they would make in the future. This is completed with a Playworker.
    - The evaluation board – This board provides the children with the opportunity to express their views on the activities provided each evening as to whether they enjoyed the activity or not. The Staff then evaluate the outcome of the results and consider this when planning for future enhancements, resources, and activities.
    - Children's views are also sought via a questionnaire, accessed through the Seesaw app. Children can choose the way in which to respond to questions posed either through typing, drawing and voice recordings.

Little Disciples Childcare also recognises that children also have the right to not participate if that is their choice and always have free access to our resource cupboard.

Child Participation Policy

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Our Commitment to Participation
We are committed to providing a setting where all children, regardless of their background or abilities, can participate fully in the environment, planning, and evaluation process. We offer various methods for children to express their views, including an 'ideas' box, Club Council meetings, activity reflections, evaluation boards, and digital questionnaires via the Seesaw app.

Inclusion and Diversity
We acknowledge and respect the diverse ways children may choose to participate. We provide multiple avenues, such as drawing, writing, and voice recordings, to ensure every child feels included and valued in the decision-making process.

Safeguarding Participation
We strive to create a safe and supportive environment where children can freely share their thoughts and ideas without fear of judgment. Participation is always voluntary, and children have the right to opt out if they choose.

Feedback and Transparency
We are committed to informing children and parents about how their input has influenced changes within our setting. We regularly share the outcomes of Club Council meetings and demonstrate how children's ideas have been implemented.

Review of Policy
This policy is reviewed regularly to ensure its continued effectiveness, with input from the children to help guide these evaluations.