Little Disciples Childcare

Play 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	December 2024	Policy Review	S. Gocher	A. Stephens	Annually – December 2025
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2.1	December 2025	No changes	S. Gocher	A. Stephens	Annually – December 202=6

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.

Little Disciples Childcare – Play Policy

"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." Playwork Principles.

In accepting the above Playwork principle, Little Disciples Childcare recognises that play is a vital component of a child's life. To this end, we are committed to ensuring that all children at our setting have access to freely chosen, varied, and child centred play opportunities in accordance with *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, Article 31:

"Parties recognise the rights of the child to rest and to leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child".

Whilst continuing to meet current legislation, we aim to ensure - in line with the *Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011* - that:

- The child is always at the centre of the play process.
- Children are supported to make their own choices about what they want to do.
- We employ staff who are appropriately qualified and/or experienced in Playwork.
- Playworkers are responsive and help to enrich children's play opportunities and foster an environment where children can discover their own solutions and develop at their own pace.
- Playworkers facilitate appropriate risk to increase children's awareness of their physical capabilities and limitations whilst balancing this with the need for play opportunities to take place in a physically and emotionally safe environment.
- Wherever possible, play opportunities promote equality of opportunity, challenge discrimination, are fully inclusive and value each child as an individual.
- Wherever possible, play opportunities motivate and empower children, increase their self-esteem and confidence, thereby encouraging positive attitudes.

In addition, the setting is committed to involving children in decisions that affect them[1]. We will consult with them, listen to their responses, acknowledge their views, act accordingly and provide them with feedback.

Further information:
https://issuu.com/playwales/docs/participation_and_consulting_with_c

[1] Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011