



Care v Play Policy

At our Club, we are primarily concerned that we meet the parent/carers need for their child/ren to be safe, and happily occupied whilst they are at work - that we 'care' for their child in their absence.

The children at our Club need to feel safe and cared for, but it is also vitally important that we remember their need to play.

For most of the day, children have been doing as they have been told, pursuing the academic tasks that have been set for them, and which they must achieve. At the end of the school day it is imperative they are offered leisure time activities - play.

Remember too that play is freely chosen by the child and self directed. It is a process, not a product. We therefore adhere to the playwork 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 well being 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 and well being of children.



Quackers After School Club

Whilst we will have an outline plan of activities etc. that might be done today, we will make absolutely sure that we have left time and space for children to occupy themselves in their own way, doing what they want to do.

Signed on behalf of Quackers After School Club: _____

Position: _____