

Clutton Playgroup



Personal, Social, Emotional Development Policy

Aims:

At the Cabin, we aim to encourage and nurture children's social competence and emotional well-being and help them develop a positive self-image. We believe that these qualities are prerequisites to successful learning in all other areas. The organisation of the playgroup and the deployment of adults is underpinned by these aims.

We recognise that the young child needs love, security and approval. Parents/carers are viewed as co-educators and the relationship between parent/carer and the child is valued. When children first start at the Cabin the induction period is carefully structured so that new children and parents/carers spend time getting to know The Cabin and their key worker. Parents/carers are encouraged to participate in their child's learning. Parents also continue their involvement by supporting activities at the Cabin.

Shortly after admission to The Cabin each child is allocated a keyperson. The keyperson takes special interest in the child's well-being, liaising with their parent/carer and documenting the child's learning journey while at the Cabin. Where a child spends time in other settings we keep in touch with them to ensure continuity of care. The key person maintains the child's learning diary and other staff contribute to it. The key person is involved in planning focused activities for children taking into account their particular interests, needs and stage of development. These activities are planned in consultation with the whole team at planning meetings.

Each child and their family is respected and valued by the organisation of a curriculum that recognises differences and celebrates diversity. Books and resources are carefully selected to reflect the cultural diversity and the individual family make up of our wider community. Visitors to our playgroup such as the local police, fire service, nurses and the vicar further enhance our curriculum. We are an inclusive playgroup and welcome children with additional needs who are supported to access all areas of the curriculum.

Children need a safe and secure environment at home and at playgroup. They need a framework in which they can take increasing responsibility for themselves and others. They need to grow in independence and self help skills. All children are encouraged to become independent in toileting and hand washing by free access to these areas. We encourage the children to help prepare snacks and wipe up their own spills. Children at The Cabin are trusted with a high degree of autonomy within a carefully planned environment where they have the opportunity to develop in all seven areas of learning.

We make use of as many opportunities as possible to talk about and help children to recognise and name different feelings e.g. through naming feelings when children are sad or cross, talking about what caused those feelings, and what helped them to feel better, when they have calmed down. (Positive mental health promotion is "everybody's business" - this comes from the government 2015 paper "Future in Mind")

Practitioners support children during self chosen activities and those planned following observation of children's interests. Children work individually, alongside others or in pairs. Through all areas of the curriculum, co-operation and collaboration are reinforced by staff e.g. by planning large floor art, group work with large blocks.

The growing child is expending a great deal of effort while learning and therefore needs praise for effort and encouragement when they meet a challenge. There is a positive behaviour policy subscribed to by all. Children are given clear boundaries and explanations for constraints. Practitioners talk through conflicts with children and encourage them to resolve differences. Circle time and puppets are used to reinforce positive behaviour and help resolve issues.

We offer children a well resourced environment where they are able to take risks and meet challenges. For example there are climbing frames indoors. In this way we encourage children to develop "keeping safe" behaviours for themselves.

This policy was agreed and adopted at a meeting of the Clutton Playgroup
Management Committee on

Signed (Chair)

Signed (Play Leader)

To be reviewed in February 2019