

Care, Learning and Play

The programme of activities and the atmosphere of Firm Foundations for Children and Adolescents CIC aims to encourage confidence, independence and enjoyment. Our work has, as its core, the aim of enabling children to develop their emotional, social, cognitive, interpersonal and physical skills, and their desire to explore, discover and be creative.

The Club will provide a well-planned and organised play environment that offers children rich and stimulating experiences, alongside opportunities to explore, experiment, plan and make decisions for themselves. The programme of activities will recognise and take into account the differing ages, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children. It shall be the duty of staff to involve all children and promote positive behaviour within the activities.

Activities are carefully planned to allow children to build on their natural curiosity, advance their thinking, use their imagination and develop positive social relationships. At all times, the Club will recognise a child's individuality, effort and achievement, supporting their out of school needs.

Wherever appropriate, children will be involved in the process of planning activities so that the programme reflects their opinions, and so that children feel some ownership over their Club. Such processes will be governed by the procedures set out in the Involving and Consulting Children policy.

A planned programme shall be devised to include a wide range of activities including those rising from consultation with the children. Once homework is complete the emphasis of the centre will be on free time and the free choice of children.

Staffing arrangements will provide opportunities for:

- appropriate yet active involvement and participation with children without being too 'hands on'.
- reflection on practice.
- recognising that working with children is a complex, challenging and demanding task and that often there are no easy answers.
- learning as a shared process - children learn most effectively when, with the support of a knowledgeable and trusted adult, they are actively involved and interested.

Staff will display flexible styles of leadership and respond appropriately to children according to their age, understanding and needs.

Staff will support, recognise and promote achievements by all children.

The Club will provide children with a range of equipment and resources appropriate to their age and interests, according to the provisions of the Equipment policy. Staff shall ensure these resources are available for use by all and encourage children to share the equipment and materials at all times.

Children will be offered access to outdoor play every day, subject to weather conditions.

The Director will ensure staff evaluate all activities whilst they are being undertaken.

The Director understands the importance of, and the process of, attachment and its relevance to childcare settings. Therefore she will endeavour to manage staffing carefully to ensure consistency and consider how staff changes might affect the children.

The Care, Learning and Play Policy shall be reviewed annually. It may be necessary for further reviews if the policy is ever brought into question either by an individual or a particular incident.