

Play Policy

At Kinda Forest School we understand the value and importance of self directed play spent in the outdoors. Play has the unmeasurable ability to improve quality of life and learning, building self awareness and self-esteem. It gives the opportunity to engage and mix with others, offering opportunities for all abilities and backgrounds, building social connections and relationships.

Using imagination, creativity, running and climbing around enhances physical and mental health. Confidence is built through challenge, risk taking and building new skills.

Building independence and resilience through these opportunities, problem solving and experiencing new situations, exploring their environment and connecting is a deep part of what the Forest school experience is here to offer.

We are a multigenerational Forest School, and we believe that community and connection thrive through the medium of play and the opportunities it can provide so we put it at the heart of what we do and make sure as a team we support this process with safety in mind and kindness in our hearts.

Procedures

To ensure that the play at Kinda Forest School is supported and facilitated in line with our values and the Forest School ethos. It is paramount that all volunteers and staff read through our handbook and have an understanding of the 6 principals which underpin the ethos of Forest School.

Health and Safety checks and Risk benefit analysis will be carried out and adhered to for play involving risk.

Agreements are made to ensure the safety and happiness of the tribe during play at Kinda Forest School, ensuring all are nurtured and cared for.

Staff and volunteers are to discuss the play and activities they have witnessed through the sessions, and plan accordingly with the interest of children at center.

Opportunity and ideas are to be brought along to the sessions to encourage development and encourage the play, craft and interests of the group.

If a dispute arises which is causing conflict or upset due to a situation during play, to resolve the situation, all involved will be called for a circle, so all have the opportunity to voice and understand each other so a resolution can be made, which keep the tribe in the center of the process. New agreements to be written up if necessary.

“Play is the highest form of research” - Albert Einstein