



Playhouse Pre-school

Children's Rights And Entitlement Policy

Policy statement

At Playhouse Pre-School, we promote every child's right to be strong, resilient and listened to. We create an inclusive environment where children are valued as individuals and are supported to develop a positive sense of themselves, their identity and their place within their family, setting and wider community. We respect and celebrate children's different backgrounds, cultures, languages, religions, traditions and family circumstances.

- We promote children's right to be strong, resilient and listened to by encouraging children to develop a sense of autonomy and independence.
- We support children to develop confidence, communication skills and an understanding of appropriate and inappropriate behaviour, while recognising that younger children may communicate their needs through actions, sounds, gestures and body language.
- We help children to establish and sustain positive and secure relationships with their families, peers and other adults.
- We work with parents to build their understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of safeguarding all our children.

What it means to promote children's rights and entitlements to be 'strong, resilient and listened to'.

To be strong means to be:

- secure in their relationships with adults who care for and support them;
- safe, valued and respected as individuals;
- confident in their own identity, family and heritage;
- included and able to develop a sense of belonging;
- confident in their abilities and proud of their achievements;
- supported to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding;
- encouraged to develop positive relationships with other children; and
- supported to express their views, preferences and feelings in ways appropriate to their age and stage of development.

To be resilient means to:

- develop a positive sense of self-worth;
- be supported to express their needs and feelings;
- develop confidence when facing difficulties and new experiences;
- develop positive ways of coping with change and challenge;
- learn that mistakes are part of learning;
- develop an understanding of fairness and respect for others; and
- gradually develop independence and responsibility appropriate to their age and stage of development.

To be listened to means:

- adults recognise that children have a right to express and communicate their thoughts, feelings, preferences and ideas;
- adults listen carefully to children's verbal and non-verbal communication, including sounds, gestures, facial expressions, body language and behaviour;

- adults take children's age, stage of development and individual communication needs into account when interpreting what they are communicating;
- adults respond appropriately to children's needs, views and feelings and, where appropriate, take action in response;
- children are given meaningful choices wherever possible;
- children are encouraged to participate in decisions and activities that affect them in ways that are appropriate to their age and stage of development; and
- adults respect children's individuality and support them to develop confidence in expressing themselves.

Listening to babies and younger children

- We recognise that babies and younger children may not yet have the language to communicate their thoughts, feelings, needs and preferences. Staff therefore pay close attention to children's sounds, facial expressions, gestures, movements, body language and behaviour.
- Staff build secure and responsive relationships with children so that they become familiar with their individual ways of communicating. Children's key person and other familiar adults respond sensitively to their cues and work with parents/carers to understand each child's individual communication style, routines, preferences and needs.
- As children develop, staff provide opportunities for them to make choices, express preferences, develop independence and participate in decisions in ways appropriate to their age and stage of development.

This policy was agreed by the staff of Playhouse Pre-School Broadwater.

Adapted on 23rd April 2015 and will be reviewed annually.

Reviewed on 23rd September 2026 by Z. Munford