



Play Policy

Stomping Ground believes that play is innate because it is vital to human development.

Stomping Ground will aim to do the following:

- Act as advocates of play wherever possible by role-modelling safe and spontaneous play in the delivery of sessions and promoting its benefits in adult-led agendas.
- Recognise that the younger a human is the stronger their need for learning through play is and the more naturally it comes to them. We will therefore draw on their expertise in finding ways to play.
- Provide a happy, stimulating, challenging, spontaneous and safe environment for the children.
- Provide and promote play provision that is **Inclusive***.
- Encourage children to direct their own play, develop their own ideas and respect each other, the equipment, the environment and the staff.
- Utilise community space and other community resources in order to develop play provision that reflects the needs of the local community and promotes social cohesion & encourage local people to become involved with the staffing of the provision.
- Create and hold the space and time for play.
- Be aware of and promote the **Playwork Principles****

*We believe that Inclusion is.....

a continuous process that is about identifying and removing barriers to the presence of, participation in and choices available to all children and young people. It is about recognising that each individual is unique, with their own individual needs, wants and aspirations but also appreciating that we all share common goals and similarities.

Why is play so important?

When children play they are learning how to live life. From a very young age, if we are able to have open and spontaneous play, we learn about temperature, gravity, friction, texture, projectiles, properties of liquids and solids, human influence, risk management, nature's influence, how our muscles work, how we and others feel about things that happen, what control we can have and don't have, balance, senses etc etc.... Everything we need to function as a human can be learned through play. Play is the best tool for holistic development as rather than focusing on one aspect of learning it is running many in tandem in a spontaneous and natural way in response to the needs of the learner.

Stomping Ground

Participate. Collaborate. Community.



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****Playwork Principles developed by Play Wales:**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- For playworkers, the play process takes precedence and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.
- The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.
- 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.
- Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people's play on the playworker.
- 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.