

Green Lanes School Play Policy

Play is a vital component of children's lives, without which their potential for healthy, mental and physical development is undermined.

Child-Initiated Learning

At Green Lanes there will be two daily uninterrupted Child Initiated Learning sessions of at least 1 hour during the morning and 1 hour during the afternoon during which staff will seek to support children's independent learning.

Planning

Children need opportunities to experience all of the seven areas of learning through play equally, both inside and outside. Continuous provision plans show a weekly rotation of activities in each area of the curriculum. Each activity will be linked to a possible assessment opportunity to ensure equal coverage. Records of 'next steps' show modifications made in response to children's learning requirements.

Assessment

90% of profile assessments will be made during Child Initiated Learning. This will be done by building Learning Journals for each child using Tapestry. These will contain;

- Observations linked to assessment criteria incorporating a photograph and notes on next steps.
- Short 'snap-shot' observations to record 'wow' moments.
- Examples of children's self-initiated learning e.g. emergent writing, mark making, number etc. will be collected and filed for each child.

Staff Role

From the observations made, staff will determine how to target and carry out 'next steps'. In this way the individual learning needs of the child will be catered for through play activities.

Staff will model:

- How to use the resources within the setting.
- How to behave in particular situations: role-play contexts—florists, garage, etc.
- How to tidy up when an activity is finished.

Children will have the opportunity to talk to staff about their play and display their artwork and writing in the classroom.

Staff will become involved in 'shared learning', where through questioning, dialogue and modeling they will seek to take children's learning forward.

Diversity

At Green Lanes, staff will ensure that both boys and girls are encouraged to take part in the full range of indoor and outdoor activities. They will monitor play resources to check that race and religion is fairly represented. They will also consider the kind of clothes that children need to wear to support active play based learning.

Parental involvement

Information on play will be provided during the first term emphasizing the importance of play and providing useful practical advice. Parents will be encouraged to contribute to their child's online 'Tapestry Learning Journal' by documenting their own observations of their child's play, to be shared with school staff and supplement the individual Learning Journals.

Children's choice

Children will choose the play activity that most appeals to them. They will select this by adding their name to photographic boards which show the activity available in a particular area.

Indoor play

At Green Lanes staff will create clearly delineated, stimulating learning environments and ensure that all resources are clearly labeled with a title and photograph.

Outdoor play

Outdoor play will take place every day whatever the weather for the following reasons:

- Active learning outdoors is essential for young children. (The most rapid physical development takes place during the first seven years of life).
- Children need opportunities to explore and practice developing skills.
- For many children, the outside learning environment in our settings will be the only safe outdoor play area they will have access to.
- Physical achievements enhance children's self-esteem.

- Some learning can only happen outdoors

Planned Mathematical Development and Literacy activities will be available every day.

Principals of play

At Green Lanes the following principals of play will be upheld:

- Children have a right to play.
- Play should provide opportunity for risk and challenge, within a safe environment.
- Play should be active - not passive.
- Children should be able to play in their own way.
- There is no right and wrong way to play.
- There will not necessarily be any results to show at the end.
- Play is fun!

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