

Torphins Playgroup Garden Policy

Aim

To provide each child with an opportunity to explore and investigate the environment of the garden.

Objectives

1. To make provision for cross curricular opportunities for each child
2. To enable each child to participate at their own level
3. To identify and improve resources
4. To encourage independence and responsibility.

1. To make provision for cross-curricular opportunities for each child

- Staff will review the opportunities and resources available to the children
- Staff will observe and record the opportunities and will note the interests and dispositions of each child when possible
- Staff will include the information gathered in short-term and long-term curriculum planning
- Staff will ensure that learning opportunities from all areas of the curriculum are identified, supported and extended.

2. To enable each child to participate at their own level

- Staff will support each child in taking responsibility for their own actions
- The particular learning needs and styles of each child shall be recognised and noted in the planning process
- Staff should use local and national guidelines to observe and assess the learning of each child
- Staff or other adults should take opportunities to work on a one-to-one basis with each child
- Co-operative work with peers should be supported and encouraged
- Children in the role of tutor for others less skilled should be supported.

3. To identify and improve resources

- Staff will audit existing resources
- The staff team will identify the resources to meet any shortfall
- Staff will consult with parents/carers, centre users, voluntary organisations and the local community
- Staff will actively encourage the participation of volunteers, particularly those with specialist knowledge
- The use of resources will be monitored and reviewed during planning meetings
- Staff will support children in the safe and careful use of tools, equipment and living things.

4. To encourage independence and responsibility

- Staff will ensure that each child has opportunities to plan and develop their own learning
- **Children will be encouraged to be aware of their own needs and safety and the needs and safety of others with whom they may be working**
- Staff will model good practice in their care for plants and for any animals that may be encountered
- Staff will encourage children to ensure that they have good personal hygiene
- Staff will ensure that their interventions are appropriate
- Those working with the children will offer additional information and guidance; for example, predicting the onset and effects of seasonal or climate changes.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Staff will use national and local guidelines when writing forward plans
- Planning meetings will take place weekly
- Staff observations and assessment of each child will be recorded in the children's individual folios
- Wear and tear of equipment will be inspected by staff on a regular basis

A Safe Environment

Torphins Playgroup's aim is to provide autonomous play in a safe environment. For example we have a woodwork bench with hammers and nails and child sized garden tools. We believe that by allowing the children the opportunity to use such resources, the skills to do so safely and confidently can be developed.

There are other possible hazards such as sticks and stones in the garden and therefore staff will do their best to avoid accidents by encouraging the children to be aware of the potential dangers.