



# **Crombie School**

## **Early Learning and Childcare**



## **Play Policy**



# Policies and Procedures

Accessing Local Area Policy March 2021

## POLICY AIM

The Play Policy has been developed in line with The United Nations Convention of the Child (UNRC) (1989): *Article 31: (best interests of the child) all children have the right to play and rest.*

We aim to ensure that the play processes are fair, inclusive and responsive to the needs of individual children; meeting the following **Health & Social Care Standards**:

- 1.25 – I can choose to have an active life and participate in a range of recreational, social, creative, physical and learning activities every day, both indoors and out.*
- 2.22 – I can maintain and develop my interests, activities and what matters to me in the way that I like.*
- 2.27- As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in a way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity.*
- 5.16 -The premises have been adapted, equipped, and furnished to meet my needs and wishes.*
- 5.17 – My environment is secure and safe.*
- 5.20 – I have enough physical space to meet my needs and wishes.*
- 5.21 – I am able to access a range of good quality equipment and furnishings to meet my needs, wishes and choices.*

### **The Play Policy is underpinned by the following national and local authority policy and guidance:**

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989
- Scottish Government, 2017, Health and Social Care Standards My support, My Life
- Care Inspectorate, 2022, A Quality Framework for Daycare of Children, Childminding and School-Aged Children
- Education Scotland, 2016, How Good is our early learning and childcare?
- Scottish Government, 2013, Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Vision
- Scottish Government , 2020, Realising the Ambition

### **Who is responsible?**

Early Years Senior Practitioner, Early Years Lead Practitioner, Nursery Staff, Parents/carers

***This policy will be reviewed regularly and in response to accident, incident or change in national or local policy or guidance***

## PROCEDURE

“Children are provided with rich, relevant experiences to enhance their play and practise skills, explore the world around them and develop knowledge and understanding in their own way and in their own time.” (HGIOELC, 2016).

At Crombie Nursery, we believe that play is vital to children’s development and opportunities must be given for children to access free play as part of their daily routine. Procedures are in place to allow children to have as many opportunities as possible to play indoors and outdoors with resources they choose to play with.



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## What is Play?

Play is important for all stages of brain development and with an adult's support, children will develop important skills for learning, life, and work. They will learn to play independently and alongside their peers, building confidence and independence.

Through play children develop problem-solving skills, imagination and creativity, language and observation skills, and memory and concentration.

## Play at Crombie

At Crombie we value free play. Our children are given the choice of how and when they play. This allows our children to follow their own interests in their own way. We are a well-resourced setting that provides a range of play opportunities which engage children in a way that interests them and allows children to lead their own play. Practitioners are skilled in recognising when to engage with the children and when to take a step back. Interfering in a child's play can be the difference between a quality play interaction and an abandoned play interaction.

## Outdoor Play at Crombie

At Crombie, we cannot emphasise the importance of outdoor play enough. Children can choose to play outdoors throughout the day, free flowing between indoors and out. We want all our children to have positive experiences in the outdoors; this will help and encourage our children to:

- Risk assess their exploratory play (i.e. climbing, building, swinging)
- Respect the world around them
- Develop an appreciation for planting and growing
- Identify differing insects and birds
- Appreciate there is no such thing as bad weather, only wrong clothing!
- Know the difference between indoor and outdoor rules (i.e. loud voices, running feet are for outdoor play)
- Understand bike safety (wearing helmets)
- Practice throwing and catching
- Understand road safety
- Appreciate walks and activities in the community
- Explore Numeracy and Literacy opportunities
- Enjoy snack provided in all weathers
- Visit local amenities

Our Early Years Practitioners understand the distinct values of playing outdoors. Our EYP's trust the children to be co-creators of their own learning. They also enable the children with learning opportunities to be able to appreciate nature and look after the world around us.



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## References

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

Scottish Government 2017, Health & Social Care Standards, My support, my life.  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/health-social-care-standards-support-life/>

Education Scotland, 2016, How Good is our early learning and childcare?  
[https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/Frameworks\\_SelfEvaluation/FRWK1\\_NIHeditSelf-evaluationHGIELC/HGIOELC020316Revised.pdf](https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/Frameworks_SelfEvaluation/FRWK1_NIHeditSelf-evaluationHGIELC/HGIOELC020316Revised.pdf)

Care Inspectorate, 2022, A Quality Framework for Daycare of Children, Childminding and School-aged Children  
[https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/6585/Quality%20framework%20for%20early%20learning%20and%20childcare%202022\\_PRINT%20FRIENDLY.pdf](https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/6585/Quality%20framework%20for%20early%20learning%20and%20childcare%202022_PRINT%20FRIENDLY.pdf)

Scottish Government, 2013, Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Vision

Scottish Government, 2020, Realising the Ambition

## Date of original policy August 2021

Revision Number	Details of Change	Date	Date of next review
1	Full review of procedures	10.08.2021	August 2022 ✓



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2	Policy Update		
4	Policy Update		
5			
6			
7			

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