

Play Policy (ASC)

Burwell Early Learners After School Club (ASC) provides space and opportunities for all children to play after school. We work towards creating a space in which all children can play and playfulness can thrive.

We recognise children's right to play as contained in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991.

Play is an essential part of a child's life and is fundamental to their healthy development and wellbeing. Our setting takes children's play seriously. By playing, children can foster their independent, critical, creative, experimental and resilient capacities. The role of the playworker is to create an environment which will stimulate children's play and maximise their opportunities for a wide range of play experiences.

The setting offers a child led environment which follows the play work principles (displayed on the ASC notice board).

Children are actively encouraged to choose what they would like to do, how they would like to do it using the resources and space available to them, and who they want to be involved, including either their peers and/or adults. The playworkers in the setting respond to children's play cues and intervene where appropriate such as when asked to join in, provide further resources, and to support children to build relationships. We provide a range of opportunities which allow children to explore the benefits of taking emotional and physical risks and challenge themselves in new situations.

Risk-Benefit

In accordance with our duties under the management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, ASC is required to undertake regular risk assessments and take the necessary action in accordance with the setting's health and safety policy.

We encourage an approach to risk assessment that takes into account the benefits of children and young people engaging in challenging play experiences whilst ensuring that they are not exposed to unacceptable risk of harm. We believe that it is essential that children get to know what they can achieve and manage, to grow physically and mentally stronger, to learn new skills and knowledge, and to deal better with what our uncertain world throws at them. In our setting children can practice taking risks within the relative safety of a play space - these opportunities may bring about an inevitable encounter to some risk of harm that occurs in the environment.

ASC staff carry out routine daily checklists, which includes a visual assessment of the indoor and outdoor environment, equipment/resources and activities before the children arrive.

During the session, staff will be vigilant and continuously aware of any potential risks to health and safety arising from the environment, all surfaces and floors inside and out and all equipment used by children and staff.

Staff will also support and encourage children to identify and assess risks within the environment.

The setting will record any accidents, incidents and dangerous occurrences following the BEL/ASC health and safety policy.

All BEL/ASC policies are reviewed annually by the Manager, Deputy, Leaders and the Management committee.

