

Policy

Super-Hero and Weapon Play

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Child Protection

Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children.

1.5 Superhero and weapon play

Policy Statement

- At Gaddesby School Community (GSC) we recognise that every child is unique. GSC staff will support them to be resilient, capable confident and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of secure and loving relationships, as well as having the opportunity to learn in a positive and stimulating environment.
- Staff at GSC aim to provide support for all areas of learning. Occasionally children may show an interest in super-hero and weapon play.

Rationale

Historically this type of play has been banned from Early Years settings, in the belief that it encourages aggression and violence. This 'ban' as well as being difficult to enforce may have a negative effect on children, especially boys.

Research suggests that children learn important lessons by exploring these themes in a safe area of play - concepts such as good and evil: life and death: strength and power: gender and identity. Children have the means, through this sort of play, to express themselves and their own individual experiences.

This policy supports practitioners and parents enabling us to respond appropriately to superhero and weapon play. If there are any concerns regarding aggression or threatening behaviour, we will refer to our Behaviour Management Policy guidelines and procedures.

Procedures

- No toy weapons will be allowed in the setting.
- Staff will encourage a child's creativity if they wish to make weapons from a selection of open-ended materials
- Super-hero costumes may be worn to the setting.
- For children to develop play GSC will provide a diverse selection of dressing up costumes.
- Staff will encourage children in cooperative play and support them in the need to be aware of the feelings of others.
- Children who do not want to take part in play will be supported in finding the appropriate language 'I'm not in your game, don't shoot me'
- Play will have clear limits to keep children safe - staff will support children in resolving their own differences - finding ways to make amends.
- Children will be involved in creating rules for their play which will promote their individual and developing skills.
- Parents views are welcome

This policy was adopted at a meeting of
Held on
Date to be reviewed
Signed on behalf of the management
Name of signatory
Position

Gaddesby School Community
May 2021
May 2022
GSC Ltd
Linda Dunmore
Manager