

Judy Westcott

Signed:

Oct 2017

Policy last reviewed on:

July 2008

Policy formulated on:

At Daisy and Rainbow Childcare, we believe that children should be allowed to engage in their own imaginative play as this is vital to their early learning and development. Through their imaginative play young children are making sense of their world, their emotions, what they have seen and heard. They take on new roles and experience situations for themselves, first hand, through engaging in role play. We provide props to enable this play and give the children access to a variety of recycled material so they can create their own props to support their imaginative play.

Imaginary play has many different names – it can be referred to as role play or symbolic play. Some people call it fantasy play. All these titles are valid as they describe the processes the child is going through when playing imaginatively. We are all aware of the dangers of suppressing children's wishes, anxieties and dreams. Through encouraging lively, open-ended imaginative play children can play out what may be on their mind.

Why imaginative play?

- Children create their own story lines in imaginative play and these need to be supported through props, time and space so they can work it through to the end.
- While children are engaging in imaginary play they are going through an emotional process. There is often a high level of sophistication about young children's imaginative play which some children would find difficult to explain verbally.

Weapon play

- Through allowing weapon and super hero play, we are encouraging the children to be honest, otherwise, children may feel they need to disguise their weapon as something else i.e. a mobile phone as a cover up to adults
- This should be allowed if it occurs through the child's initiated play
- Children may use the Makaton stop sign, or indeed they can say "stop" to enable children to respect each other's wishes and to be respected.
- Children can create weapons in the setting using materials available but cannot bring them from home.
- Practitioners will intervene to prevent harm and to ensure all children are consensual.

Superhero play

- Children can come in dressed as Superheroes but need to bring a spare set of clothing so they can de-role at some point.

Policy formulated on: July 2008

Policy last reviewed on: Oct 2017

Signed: Judy Westcott

