



8: Care, Learning and Play

The programme of activities and the atmosphere of Jesters aims to encourage confidence, independence and enjoyment. Our work has, as its core, the aim of enabling children to develop their emotional, social, cognitive, interpersonal and physical skills, and their desire to explore, discover and be creative.

Jesters will provide a well-planned and organised play environment that offers children rich and stimulating experiences, alongside opportunities to explore, experiment, plan and make decisions for themselves. The programme of activities will recognise and take into account the differing ages, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children.

Activities are carefully planned to allow children to build on their natural curiosity, advance their thinking, use their imagination and develop positive social relationships. At all times, Jesters will recognise a child's individuality, effort and achievement.

Wherever appropriate, children will be involved in the process of planning activities so that the programme reflects their opinions, and so that children feel some ownership over their Club. Such processes will be governed by the procedures set out in the Involving and Consulting Children policy.

Staffing arrangements will provide opportunities for:

- reflection on practice.
- recognise that working with children is a complex, challenging and demanding task and that often there are no easy answers.
- that learning is a shared process and that children learn most effectively when, with the support of a knowledgeable and trusted adult, they are actively involved and interested.

Staff will display flexible styles of leadership and respond appropriately to children according to their age, understanding and needs.

Staff will support, recognise and promote achievements by all children.

Jesters will provide children with a range of equipment and resources appropriate to their age and interests, according to the provisions of the Equipment policy.

Children will be offered access to outdoor play every day, subject to weather conditions.

Children will be supervised appropriately during activities at Jesters.

The programme of activities will be displayed in a place that is accessible to all children and to their parents/carers, including start and finish times.

The Club Manager will ensure that time is managed properly, so as to allow for activity sessions to be evaluated.

