**Wasps play policy**

All children are entitled to play; it is intrinsic to their quality of life and an importance part of how they learn and enjoy themselves.

At wasps we recognise the importance of play to a child's development and follow the play work principles. As play workers we support and facilitate play, and do not seek to control or direct it. We will never force children to participate in play, but allow children to initiate and direct the experiences for themselves

**Facilitating play**

We support and facilitate play be:

* Providing an environment which is safe and suitable for playing in.
* Setting up the club so that activities are ready before the children arrive
* Providing a range of equipment , resources and activities on a daily basis, and keeping a record of these to ensure that varied play opportunities are offered.
* Encouraging children to request additional or alternative equipment as they choose, and if a request has to be refused, explaining why.
* Not expecting children to be occupied at all times
* Making outdoor play available everyday, unless the weather is particularly bad.
* Involving children in planning activities, to reflect their own interests and ideas
* Planning activities that enable children to develop their natural curiosity and imagination
* Allowing children freedom of creative expression, particularly in artistic or creative play
* Intervening in play only when necessary: to reduce risks of accident or injury, or to encourage appropriate social skills
* Warning children in advance when an activity or game is due to end

**Play areas and equipment**

* All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked and risk assessed daily before the children arrive in accordance with our risk assessment policy
* Children are involved in selecting additional equipment and resources for use at the club
* The resources used at the club promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line without equal opportunities policy
* The club has a selection of fiction and non-fiction books, suitable for all age ranges