

## **Play Policy**

At Sugar-n-Spice Kiddie Haven Inc., all children are entitled to play. It is important to their quality of life and is a part of how they learn and enjoy themselves.

Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to think about problems and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play that is guided by adults.

At Sugar-n-Spice Kiddie Haven Inc. we understand the importance of play in a child's development. 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 themselves.

We believe that play builds a child's self esteem, confidence, communication and social skills.

At Sugar-n-Spice, we allow children to access a range of different weather conditions including rain, snow, heat, ice and winds. We will decide on the safety of the children and decide when to intervene during weather conditions. At Sugar-n-Spice we follow Best Practice [https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/resources/pubs/elcc\\_manual.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/resources/pubs/elcc_manual.pdf) for weather conditions.

### ***Facilitating Play***

We support and facilitate play by:

- Providing a safe, suitable environment for children to play in
- Preparing play activities in advance so that they are ready when the children arrive
- Providing a variety of equipment for the children
- Not expecting children to be occupied at all times
- Making outdoor play available every day, weather permitting
- Involving and encouraging children in planning their own activities based on their interests
- Planning activities to stimulate curiosity and imagination allowing them to express themselves
- Intervening in play when necessary, to prevent accidents or injuries or to encourage appropriate social play
- Warning children in advance when play is coming to an end.

### ***Play areas and Equipment***

- All play areas (indoors and outdoors) are assessed daily for safety before the children arrive. Staff are educated in where to dispose of objects such as needles, drugs, glass, etc.
- Children play in age appropriate playgrounds.
- We do not allow children to climb trees or anything that does not have proper support and proper ground cover.
- Activities such as open fires (bon fires, barbecues) must be supervised by adults at all times.
- Children will not play in an area with environmental hazards
- Children must wear helmets on scooters, ice skating, roller skating or blading, riding trikes or bicycles while being supervised by staff
- Toys and equipment are regularly checked for safety concerns such as breakage, sharp objects, etc.