



Information for Parents

Project Aims

- To encourage and support children to play, whatever the weather
- To maximise the range of outdoor play opportunities available to children by supporting freedom and choice in their play
- To create challenging spaces where children are able to explore and test boundaries, whilst being safe from unnecessary harm
- To encourage respect for others within communities and offer opportunities for social interaction through play
- To support children's well being, health, development, knowledge, understanding and creativity through creating play opportunities
- To widen accessibility by challenging the barriers which prevent children from accessing opportunities for play

Introduction

Playrangers is an exciting project which supports and encourages children to play freely outdoors. Playrangers are qualified and experienced play workers who deliver free, open access play sessions within parks and open spaces in local communities. The project promotes use of the natural environment as well as child led play, providing activities such as; cooking on an open fire, water sliding, sledging, painting, den building, face painting, wood whittling, group games, active play and so much more. Playrangers provide all necessary equipment, ingredients and toys for each session.



Age Range and Supervision

The Playranger project is aimed at children aged 5 to 12 years, although families and children of all ages are welcome. Children under the age of 8 are required to have a parent / guardian present to look after them throughout the session. Play Rangers are not childminders; they are there to facilitate children's play and are not responsible for any children who are left unsupervised.



Playranger sessions are open access. Children can come and go as they please; whether they stay for 10 minutes or the full 2 hours. Parents are welcome to leave children over the age of 8, if they believe them to be mature enough to take responsibility for themselves. As the sessions are open access we cannot stop a child leaving at any time. Parents will need to discuss their own boundaries and collection arrangements with their child.



The Playranger project encourages children to take responsibilities for their own actions and believes that this is good for them and encourages development and social skills. Children are encouraged to resolve disagreement and conflict amongst themselves and Playrangers will only intervene if they feel a child is at unnecessary risk.

Playrangers believe that children need and want to take risks when they play. The project aims to respond to these needs by offering children a stimulating and challenging environment where they can explore and develop their abilities.



Experience tells us that when children play outdoors they are likely to have accidents. Playrangers promote challenging play whilst trying to prevent any unnecessary risks.

If this approach causes concern, please come along and speak to us.

First Aid

Playrangers are equipped and trained to be able to administer emergency aid to children during sessions. Cuts, bruises, minor burns and injuries will be dealt with during the session. Parents will be made aware of any first aid treatment that has been administered when they collect their child. Playrangers will refer more serious injuries to the emergency services and notify parents immediately of any action taken. It is therefore important that parents provide current and relevant contact information and update them on a regular basis.

Clothing

As the Playranger project is delivered outdoors and in all weather conditions, it is important that parents understand that children are likely to get wet, muddy, dirty, smelly (from fire smoke), hot or cold during sessions. Parents need to ensure their child is dressed appropriately, so they are able to fully enjoy and benefit from the activities on offer.



Expectations of Parents

Please ensure you fully understand how the Playranger project works, so you can support your child to be fully involved. Please do ask if you are unsure about anything.

The Playranger project aims to enhance opportunities for children so that they are able to enjoy the health, social and well being benefits of playing outdoors with other children. We would therefore expect that all parents respect the environment we are trying to create for the children by refraining from smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages or using inappropriate language whilst in attendance at sessions.



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