

in2play



"Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood for it alone is the free expression of what is in the child's soul".

(Friedrich Froebel 1887)

Our Users Guide

For parents, caregivers and participants

Contacts;

Hastings Adventure Playground manager: Meynell: 07864 663919

In2play office: 01424 421201

Hastings Adventure Playground is managed by in2play CIC: Company number 5769372

In2play Community Interest Company - Company No. 5769372



A quality play setting offering quality play opportunities

We aim to provide a setting which reflects the Playwork Principles. Therefore, the playground is a place where children can be themselves and can play freely in ways of their own choosing.

We recognise that this is a children's space and we try to ensure that the children play how they want to. We recognise that play is a freely chosen, personally directed behaviour that is motivated from within. We support the children's opportunity to choose and create their play by providing a range of materials and ideas to inspire and challenge.

The team of playworkers try not to control the choices or direction of the children's play, whilst also recognising that one person's play should not be to the detriment of another person's. Sometimes we might not like what the children may be doing, but we still have to respect their right to do it!

As this is a children's space, they will be constantly involved in developing the culture of the playground, therefore helping to create a positive atmosphere for all to enjoy.

Trained and experienced playworkers work in the playground.

Play opportunities

The Playground provides a range of resources to encourage the children to extend and direct their own play to the fullest. Playworkers are on hand to support and facilitate their play as well as being a flexible resource themselves. The children have access to the wooded outside area, which extends their play environment. We have a variety of resources, which the children can use in their play. Children will be using real tools, have access to the fire pit and be roaming around the site which has an abundance of trees, places to hide, things to move around as well as lots of nettles and brambles.

Risk and Challenge

Hastings Adventure Playground supports this need for children to take risks and challenge themselves both physically and emotionally. We recognise that children of all ages need and want to take risks and that they will be different for each child, just as they are for adults. The playworkers will support the individual child in judging their own risk level however low that may be. This could be riding a unicycle for the first time (physical risk) or having an argument with their friend (emotional risk)

"All children both need and want to take risks in order to explore limits, venture into new experiences and develop their capacities, from a very young age and from their earliest play experiences. Children would never learn to walk, climb stairs or ride a bicycle unless they were strongly motivated to respond to challenges involving risk or injury. Children with disabilities have an equal if not greater need for opportunities to take risks, since they may be denied the freedom of choice enjoyed by their non-disabled peers."

'Managing risk in a play provision 2002'

Playing in all Weathers

Someone once said "there's no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing!" The children will be playing play outside, whatever the weather, so please make sure they have appropriate clothing, which means if it is raining they will get wet. We will encourage everyone to wear their coats, but they may choose not to. If it is hot and sunny, sun cream would be good and a hat too.

During the summer, spontaneous water fights may break out! For that reason we encourage everyone (including the staff!) to bring spare clothes and a towel.

Children leaving the playground

Children are free to come and go from the playground throughout the time we are open. They may leave alone or with friends. The parent/caregiver needs to make their own clear arrangements with their child about when and how they leave the playground and if the parent/caregiver wants the child to wait for them to come and go home with them the child needs to understand that, as the playworkers are unable to keep the children on site if they are insistent on leaving.

Getting Messy

Some of the activities that children choose to do at the playground will be messy. Therefore we recommend that the children wear a set of play clothes they don't mind getting dirty or messy. However, no activities are compulsory and there are always non-messy opportunities. However, the playground is a large outdoor woodland space!

Behaviour at the Playground

The setting does not have a specific policy regarding children's behaviour. It is the playground's role to facilitate children's play opportunities whilst taking care not to control their direction or choice. However, we do have a behaviour policy for the playworkers. They are asked to encourage the children to respect others and talk through the feeling of conflict or anger. All feelings (happy, sad, angry, etc.) are a natural part of life, it is how we respond and react to others expressing these feelings that are the important issue. Adults are not the only ones to have strong feelings, but we do have more experience and therefore we should try to understand how difficult it is for some children to express themselves in an acceptable manner

Where a child is persistently causing harm to others or themselves, the playground reserves the right to inform the child's parent/caregiver of the behaviour and, as a last resort, to exclude the child from the playground. This does not have to be permanent; it could be for just one night. This would be discussed with everybody involved; playworkers, children, and parent/caregivers. Any decision to exclude a child will only be taken by the Adventure Playground manager after consultation with everyone involved.

Photographs/video

We shall be using video cameras and still cameras at the Playground. We may use the images on our website and social media; for newsletters, our scrap-book or on notice boards We may also use the images for publicity or in news items to promote the playground. We will also be delivering training and seminars and may at times use video and pictures from the playground to demonstrate what a play setting is.

We always check with the children before taking pictures and video but we also require your consent. There is a space on the registration form for you to give permission for this. Even if you say yes, it is still our policy to check with each individual if they are okay about it at the time the images are taken.

Observations

An important part of playwork practice is for playworkers to observe and record what is happening in the play space. These observations form part of the playworker's reflective practice: by watching the children at play we gain a greater understanding of children's play and are better able to resource the play space and provide for their play needs and preferences. Playworkers from other settings and sometimes students on training courses, and researchers will come into the setting to observe. If you wish to discuss this, please talk to a member of staff.

First Aid

It is important to realise that at times when children are playing "playground accidents" can happen and children get hurt. We have staff that are trained in administering first aid. If your child is involved in an accident, we will write it up on an accident form and ask you to read it and then sign it. If your child requires hospital treatment we will contact you immediately.

Child Protection/Safeguarding Children

We take our responsibility for children's welfare and protection seriously. All staff are either qualified or working towards qualifying in safeguarding issues, recognising signs of child abuse as well as making referrals regarding child abuse to the local teams. We also have a full safeguarding policy in operation. (Please ask a member of staff if you would like a copy). All of our staff working directly or indirectly with children at the playground have undertaken DBS checks

Policies and Procedures

We have a full policy document, which is available for anyone to read or ask a member of staff if you want a copy.

Who can come?

Any child aged between 6 and 18 years can attend the playground, depending on which project is running. Our staff are committed to making Hastings Adventure Playground somewhere everyone can feel welcome and comfortable. The Playground will be run so as to be inviting to participants from all backgrounds, cultures and abilities. If your child has any needs that you think we should know about in order to make it possible for them to have a full and enjoyable play experience, please let us know when registering and we will do our best to make sure that their needs are met.

Where are we?

We are based in the old coach works at the bottom of Fellows Road at the junction of Upper Broomgrove Road. The entrance for the Playground is through the bottom double gates.

Booking /Registration

There is no need to book as the Adventure Playground is 'open access' this means that children can come and go as they wish. We do require a completed registration form for EACH child attending. This will need to be updated each year or as soon as possible if there are any changes to contact details. Forms can be downloaded from our website: www.in2play.org.uk/adventure-play/

Fees

The Adventure Playground sits at the heart of our community in the Baird and Tressell wards and is free for children within that community to attend. We reserve the right to charge fees to those children who live outside of our immediate community.

Cancellation

As we are an 'open access' provision there is no need to book [except if we are running a specific event] and therefore for our normal holiday projects and after school provision we do not need to know if you are attending or not. If we are running a programme that requires you to tell us if you are cancelling, we will let you know.

Late Pickup

As an 'open access' provision we do not require children to be collected by adults in order for them to leave. We will ask children to leave the site at the end of sessions and they will then make their own way home.

Complaints Procedure

If you or any children feel the need to complain about any issue arising from the Playground, the following approach is recommended:

- Speak to a playworker
- Speak to the Adventure Playground manager
- If this does not work, contact in2play office: 01424 421201

Please see additional information sheets for specifics on the individual programmes when appropriate

Please sign and date below to say that you have read this guide and keep it for reference.

Signature	Date
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