

Superhero/ Gun play policy.

Most children enjoy engaging in imaginative play that relates to and makes sense of the world they live in, for lots of children particularly boys, this imaginative play contains a strong element of weapon and superhero re-enactment.

At Jack and Jill's Pre-School we acknowledge that children will come across the use of guns and weapons in the world around them, whether through television, films or from a relative who is in the armed forces. At Jack and Jill's Pre-School we want to promote superhero play in a positive way so children feel free to express their ideas, feelings and emotions throughout their play.

Our experience of children tells us that children have been playing goodies and baddies since time began, though the characters have changed from Cowboys and Indians to Cops and Robbers and now Spiderman and Avengers, such games are a common theme in Pre-Schools.

We believe that children's imaginative play generally follows the basic themes.

- What a child has experienced,
- What a child knows,
- What they are interested in,
- What they enjoy,
- What a child wants to know more about,
- What makes a child nervous or worried about,
- What a child feels,
- Their many possible future roles.

At Jack and Jill's Pre-School we have decided to except and support superhero play, we will acknowledge the positive aspects of play and highlight the negative aspects of weapon use and physical violence at a level that is appropriate to the age and needs of the child. We promote superhero play more outside as there is more space to fully explore and the children can use the natural resources to build around their play, this helps encourage communication skills and self-confidence.

Superhero play/gun play should help motivate and challenge children.

- **We know children play at what concerns them and worries them.**
- **By exploring these games children can feel more in control.**
- **Gun/superhero play helps extend play and learning especially in boys.**

At Jack and Jill's Pre-School we monitor superhero/gun play and encourage children to have their own ideas and use their own experiences throughout play. We encourage the children to understand both the positive and negative in gun play/superhero play by talking to the children about gentle hands and kind words, using our golden rules and joining in the play so we can role model.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Jack and Jill's preschool

Held on

Date to be reviewed

Signed on behalf of

Name of signatory