

Bright Beginnings recognises children's right to have a voice, and that policy decisions that affect children should have children as their primary concern. Children have the right to be heard and have their opinions considered as stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child [UN 1989].

Listening to children

We listen to children through observing their likes, dislikes, interests and preferences responding to them by creating access to play opportunities which satisfy their likes and interests and extend their play cycle. We understand the importance of the whole spectrum of play as described in the 'The New Charter for Children's Play' [1998, Children's Play Council] and strive to support all forms of play children seek.

This includes children's desire to have access to positive risk play and challenging play.

Bright Beginnings recognises the innate desire children have to engage in positive risk play and the benefits this has for them which is well documented in child development literature.

Positive Risk Assessment

Where children require opportunities for adventurous positive risky play activities we will adapt environments and source resources and equipment which satisfy and challenge accordingly. Opportunities we offer due to the advantages of managed, beneficial and acceptable risks, will be carefully measured to ascertain whether the managed risk outweighs the potential risks involved within the activity/experience. Our risk assessments will balance risks with benefits. These are supported with procedures and guidance where needed, to enable the risk assessments to have the flexibility to make allowances for the "individual child" and the myriad of needs and abilities our children exhibit.

It is our intention that whenever removing an opportunity due to its risk being deemed unacceptable, we will replace it with one which has acceptable risks that meet similar/same opportunities.

This Policy was adopted on	9 th June 2017
Date of Review and Reviewer	17 th May 2019 Angela Hynes