

## **Statement on Children's Play**

Hackney Play Association provides places where children can play.

In our play spaces children can run around, climb, jump, roll, balance, scream, play with mud and water, get dirty, make things, destroy things, dress up, read, be quiet, be on their own or play in large groups. In other words – be children.

We believe that play is essential in children's lives helping them to make sense of themselves and the world around them. Children are actively encouraged to choose what they would like to do, how they would like to do it and how they want to use the resources and space available to them, who they want to be involved, including their friends, other children and/or the playworkers.

By having an environment in which the children are encouraged to explore, experiment, engage in challenging play and taking risks they will gain confidence and self-awareness and try more things out for themselves.

We operate an open access policy. There is no charge for coming to our adventure playgrounds and children can come and go as they please.

All staff who work for us are trained and competent playworkers whose role is to support the children in their play.

Please note that:

- Children aged 6 and over are welcome to stay and play by themselves with their parent's permission
- Children under the age of 6 are very welcome but must be supervised by an accompanying adult at all times.
- When children play they can get messy so please make sure they dress with this in mind.
- Personal items such as money and phones are brought on to the playground at own risk.
- We reserve the right to exclude any child or adult acting in a manner that is harmful, abusive or detrimental to children's play.

Further information on play is available from [www.playengland.net](http://www.playengland.net).