

# Stepping Stones Day Nursery & Nursery School Limited

## SUPER HERO ROLE PLAY POLICY

Role play is an important part of learning and development. It helps children become familiar with their own preferences and feelings, as well as helping them learn to recognise other people's emotional states. Without opportunities for role play they would not get the chance to observe, practise and rehearse the subtleties of social signalling which makes us effective and appropriate communicators.

A necessary part of children's play and development will involve 'superhero' or 'weapon' play. This type of play helps them to build and maintain appropriate social awareness, co-operation, fairness and altruism. It also ensures they learn to distinguish between play fighting and real aggression. Contrary to belief it is not a pre-cursor to violent behaviour – in fact there is an argument that if children were given access to play fighting the instances of real fighting would be significantly less.

Stepping Stones understands that we cannot stop children involved in superhero play. If children are using props as pretend weapons e.g. a stick as a sword or a Lego made 'laser' we will talk to the children and let them know it is unacceptable to touch each other with them. If this happens they will be asked to stop and re-directed towards other play.

We will explain to children in play that these 'weapons' are used to protect us – knights used swords as protection, police use guns to protect them and us etc. This also links in to the areas of learning Understanding the World and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. It also relates to the understanding of British Values in learning what is right or wrong.

We will also talk about superhero play in group times - how we mustn't hurt each other and how we can play safely. We shall also make it inclusive when supporting play by inviting girls to be 'superwoman' or 'batgirl' etc.

Internal use only

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	14/06/16
<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery:</b>	<b>Date Reviewed:</b>
<b>James Chenery</b>	07/16, 09/17
<b>Jane Kelly</b>	09/2018