



South Turrumurra Out of School Hours Care

Turrumurra Public School Kissing Point Rd
Turrumurra 2074 NSW (02) 9144 4769



Play Policy

Policy

South Turrumurra OOSH highly values the role that play has in the growth and development of children. We proudly facilitate the child's right to play and leisure, as stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Our program provides children with the opportunity to engage in various recreational and leisure activities which cover a range of age-appropriate play types. We draw on child suggestions, observations and play theorists such as Parton and Piaget when planning our program, aiming to provide every child with an engaging experience. We critically reflect both planned and spontaneous activities so that we can constantly expand and improve our delivery.

South Turrumurra OOSH recognises the particular importance of certain types of play in children's overall development. Risky, messy and technological play are often excluded from programs but we believe that with proper risk assessment, the benefits of risky play merits it's inclusion in ours.

Risky Play at the school age provides key opportunities for children to develop coordination, resilience, problem solving skills and risk assessment.

Messy play at the right age fosters a child's sensory development, exploration, connection to nature and play-based learning.

Technology is now interwoven into all aspects of life. South Turrumurra OOSH acknowledges the importance of technology within the program and the role it plays in children's play. Technology promotes sharing, cooperation, sportsmanship, fine motor control, problem solving skills and emotional regulation.

Legislative Requirements, Considerations & Related Policies

- South Turrumurra OOSH Risk Assessments
- My Time, Our Place
- South Turrumurra OOSH Policy – Creating a Child Safe Environment
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



South Turrumurra Out of School Hours Care

Turrumurra Public School Kissing Point Rd
Turrumurra 2074 NSW (02) 9144 4769



Messy Play

South Turrumurra OOSH will provide opportunities for children to engage in messy play through planned and spontaneous, craft and nature activities. We firmly believe that dirty knees and painted hands are great indicators of healthy development in school aged children.

Benefits of Messy Play

- Reinforces concepts and skills learned at school in a tangible way; this improves a child's understanding of scientific concepts, vocabulary words, art, foundational math skills, etc.
- Facilitates learning by allowing children hands-on exploration of concepts that are hard to understand. For example, you can demonstrate density by allowing children to play with objects that sink or float in a sensory bin of water, which helps them visualize and SEE density rather than just trying to imagine it.
- Allows children to express themselves creatively and explore a variety of art mediums while focusing on process-based art.
- Creates a sense of serenity for children; sensory play can be very calming (think of a Zen Garden). This helps with emotional regulation.
- Fosters patience and connections with nature and the world around them.
- Improves fine motor control.
- Benefits of slime include learning about material properties and how they change, following a recipe and instructions, playing within boundaries or limits (e.g.: slime stays outside), tactile stimulation, experimentation & creative representation.
- Builds a sense of responsibility when they participate in set up and clean up and take ownership of their activities.



South Turrumurra Out of School Hours Care

Turrumurra Public School Kissing Point Rd
Turrumurra 2074 NSW (02) 9144 4769



Risky Play

South Turrumurra OOSH will provide children with opportunities to engage in Risky Play in controlled environments. Risk will always be assessed and priority will be placed on child safety during Risky Activities. We believe that Risky Play is an essential and often neglected part of a child's development. Risky Play may come in the form of cooking, fire play, climbing, balancing, stick play, fitness boxing, excursions and more.

Benefits of Risky Play

- **Risk Assessment Skills**

Through risky play, children can learn how to judge risks and assess the consequences. They can learn through experience the safety perimeters around different situations and help form an understanding of boundaries. Psychologists have shown that children who engage in risky play are less likely to become injured because they're more adept at observing their surroundings and making good decisions.

- **Emotional Regulation**

Children who take risks in play are forced to confront potentially negative emotions, such as fear and anger, and learn how to manage them in a positive and constructive way.

- **Self-esteem**

Confronting and overcoming risks can boost a child's self-esteem and help the child better understand what they are capable of. It helps build confidence for handling risks in the future and can help the child feel more in control of their actions and environment. Conversely, a child who is never exposed to risky situations will never develop the skills to confront these situations, growing up overly fearful and unwilling to try new things.

- **Taking Initiative**

The best kind of risky play is the kind that the child themselves initiates, whether it's deciding to climb farther or swing higher or simply enter a risky area. This can help children explore their individuality and encourage the development of their autonomy.

- **Problem Solving & Creativity**

Risky play is a great way for children to practice making fast decisions under pressure. Quick decision making involves emotional regulation and critical thinking under a "high pressure" environment and greatly benefits a child's cognitive development.

- **Physical Development**

Running, jumping, climbing, and other forms of physical effort are an important part of childhood, both to develop the child's strength and endurance as well as a sense of their physical capabilities and potential. The surest way to avoid a sedentary child is to make sure that he or she understands from an early age that doing physical things is fun.

- **Ability to Deal with Failure**

Risk means there is a chance of failure. Learning to deal with mistakes and failed attempts is an important part of a child's emotional development. Dealing with failure also encourages the development of resilience and perseverance.



South Turrumurra Out of School Hours Care

Turrumurra Public School Kissing Point Rd
Turrumurra 2074 NSW (02) 9144 4769



Technology

Technology is integrated into nearly every aspect of our lives and the same is becoming true for children. Technology is now used to great effect in education and play and South Turrumurra OOSH accepts technology's place in children's development. We use technology in the form of music, TV, tablets, phones, two-way radios and cameras to enhance our children's opportunities for play and learning.

Benefits of Technology

- **Hand-eye Coordination**

Through engaging applications, children develop their hand-eye coordination. This occurs when children visually follow an object on the screen and actively participate in the activity the application presents. Games such as "Just Dance" promote movement and physical wellness too.

- **Social Skills**

When technology is used appropriately, technology can be used in collaboration with other people. In many games and learning applications children will work together to achieve a goal whether game is single or multiplayer.

- **Expands Horizons**

Technology can be used as a tool to expand children's learning beyond what our physical environment allows. Documentaries and education films can be used to connect with and learn about our natural, global world and its history and vast cultures.

- **Develops Skills and Talents**

Interactive media can be used to explore and develop children's talents and interests. Using activity specific apps (chess) or educational videos, children can participate in self-directed learning and have a wider range of interest areas to explore.



South Turramurra Out of School Hours Care

Turramurra Public School Kissing Point Rd
Turramurra 2074 NSW (02) 9144 4769



Possessions from Home

South Turramurra OOSH allows children to bring possessions from home including toys and trading cards but takes no responsibility for them being lost, stolen or damaged. We strongly recommend that anything valuable is left at home.

Lost or Stolen Items

- We will always help a child recover lost or stolen items at OOSH however items bought from home are ultimately the responsibility of the child and are at risk of not be recovered.
- Lost school items such as lunch boxes and drink bottles will be placed in our lost property tub which will be accessible to children and parents during OOSH opening hours.
- Other lost items will be kept in the OOSH office and must be accurately described to be recovered.

Trading

- Children are allowed trade their tradable items at OOSH unless directed otherwise by educators.
- Trades will be allowed from one child to another and for items of likeness, i.e. Pokémon Cards for Pokémon Cards, not Pokémon Cards for a Packet of Chips.
- Trading is a great opportunity for children to practice equality and develop skills of commerce. Educators will facilitate this by allowing children to independently trade, intervening only when needed to support conflict resolution and emotional regulation.
- OOSH strongly recommends that tradable items of high value are kept safely at home.