



THE PLAY WORK PRINCIPALS

- 1. All children and young people need to play. The impulse is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity and is fundamental to the healthy development and well being of individuals and communities.**
- 2. Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.**
- 3. The prime focus and essence of play work is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education**
- 4. For play workers, the play process takes precedence and play workers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.**
- 5. The role of play worker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.**
- 6. The play worker's response to children and young people is based on sound, up to date knowledge of the play process and reflective practice.**
- 7. Play workers recognize their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people on the play worker.**
- 8. Play workers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All play worker's intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and well being of the child.**