

# MAKE-DO PLAY

## Vision and Aims

Make-Do Play exists to provide children and their families with unstructured, child-led free-play, for free.

We recognise that today's children face many barriers to play including an increasingly risk averse society and an over-emphasis on structured adult-led activities. We uphold children's right to play as asserted in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, and follow the Playwork Principles which state that children should "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."

We are committed to promoting children's agency, respecting their ownership of the space and trusting them to take risks. We endeavour to empower children to make their own choices about how they play without any unnecessary adult interference.

We are acutely aware that many parents, especially mothers, feel under an immense amount of pressure to be 'good parents' by filling their children's time with formal activities from a very young age and we aim to increase parents' confidence by providing a laid-back, non-judgemental space and demonstrating the importance of child-led play.

We recognise that London has high rates of child poverty and that many families are disadvantaged by socioeconomic circumstances leaving them unable to access many children's activities or lacking outdoor space of their own. Financial accessibility is crucial to our organisation. We are also conscious of the fact that social barriers extend beyond access to money and we aim to improve our engagement with more of the local community, especially those who are marginalised.

We aim to be as inclusive and accessible as we possibly can. We strongly assert that no child should experience exclusion due to disability and anyone working with children has a duty to ensure that their services meet the needs of all children, accepting that attitudes play their part just as much as physical barriers. We recognise that this is a continuous journey and we commit to improving our practice in regards to accessibility and inclusion.

More than anything, we are proud to facilitate play not to achieve adult determined outcomes, but to meet the needs and wants of the children themselves, and simply for the joy of it.