



Weapon and Superhero play policy

June 2025

Review June 2026

EYFS: 1.1, 1.5

Here at Acorn Childcare Centre, we support all children's interests to further develop their play, learning and development, including the use of weapons and superhero play, in line with the EYFS requirements and our Quality provision policy, Early learning opportunities statement and promoting positive behaviour policy. Children will often take part in weapon and superhero play to make sense of the world around them. They may develop this interest from:

- Watching their favourite movie or TV characters involved in physical battles with weapons
- Witnessing an older sibling or parent playing an online game with weapons
- The child's parent working with guns as part of their professional job role
- First-hand experience of witnessing or involvement in traumatic experiences.

The benefits of supporting gun and superhero play are:

- Supporting children to follow their interests
- Developing imagination
- Resolving conflicts
- Building self-esteem
- Language development
- Supporting emotional development by making sense of their experiences
- Developing physical skills.

We believe all children should be free to follow their play in a safe environment with adults who can positively support their play. We implement the following procedures to ensure that this type of play is appropriately supported:

- Here at Acorn Childcare Centre, we have adopted a child centred planning approach whereby Practitioners plan learning experiences 'in the moment'. Using this style of learning our Practitioners will provide role play experiences that reflects the interests of the children and not those of the adults.
- Ensure staff give the same positive praise for children engaged in weapon and superhero play as they do for children engaged in other activities
- Engage with children and agree rules for weapon and superhero play so everybody can play safely
- Allocate an agreed zone for this type of play so children who do not want to get involved can play undisturbed
- Use superhero play to tell stories
- Look at real life heroes who help the children. Talk about what makes somebody a hero. Create our own display of heroes in the children's lives

- Include action figures and capes (squares of material) in our continuous provision. Ask parents for donations of unwanted superhero costumes
- We fully anticipate that conflicts and disagreements between the children are highly likely to happen whilst engaging in weapon and superhero play as it does in all areas of play. Conflict resolution will be dealt with by the practitioner supervising the children, the children involved will be encouraged to talk to each other and come to a mutually resolution together
- Be sensitive to the culture and needs of children and families in our Nursery community including children and their families that may have migrated to the United Kingdom to escape conflict in their native country or experienced violence and trauma, seeking the support of external professionals if required.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>January 2025</i>	Lorna Hodgett	<i>January 2026</i>
<i>Reviewed June 2025</i>		<i>June 2026</i>