

1. Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

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1.1 Children's Rights and Entitlements

Policy Statement

At Miss B's Nursery, we recognise the importance of play and actively support every child's **right to play (Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC))**, as an essential part of their development and wellbeing.

We are committed to helping children become **strong, resilient and confident individuals whose voices are valued**. This is achieved by creating an environment that supports children in developing a positive sense of identity and self-worth. We recognise and respect each child's background, including their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language and family traditions (Article 30 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).

We encourage children to develop **independence and autonomy**, helping them gain confidence in making choices and expressing their views (Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)). Through positive support and guidance, we also help children build the self-confidence and communication skills they need to recognise and challenge behaviour that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Strong and healthy relationships are central to children's well-being. We therefore support children in forming and maintaining positive relationships with their families, peers and other adults. Partnership with parents and carers is also essential. We work closely with families to ensure they understand the importance of safeguarding and to strengthen their commitment to keeping children safe and protected.

Promoting Children's Rights to be Strong, Resilient and Listened To:

Supporting children's rights means ensuring they feel secure, valued and respected within our setting.

Being Strong

A child who is strong should:

- Feel safe and secure in close, loving relationships, particularly with at least one trusted adult who provides consistent care and support.
- Be valued as an individual within their family and within environments outside the home, such as nursery or school.
- Develop a confident, positive sense of identity, including pride in their background, culture, and personal experiences.
- Feel included, respected and part of both the nursery community and the wider community.
- Believe in their abilities and feel proud of their progress and achievements.
- Be supported to develop and learn successfully across all areas of development.
- Build friendships and learn important social skills such as cooperation, respect, and negotiation while recognising others' rights.
- Have opportunities to express their views and take part in decisions that affect their experiences within the setting.

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Being Resilient

Resilience in children means that they:

- Have a clear sense of their own value and dignity.
- Feel confident in expressing their needs and opinions appropriately.
- Can cope with challenges and overcome difficulties.
- Maintain a positive attitude towards learning and life experiences.
- Can manage change and adapt to new situations.
- Develop an understanding of fairness and respect for both them and others.
- Begin to understand responsibility for their own actions and behaviour.
- Can represent themselves and contribute to decisions that affect them and others.

Being Listened To

For children to feel listened to:

- Adults recognise that children have the right to communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas.
- Practitioners pay close attention to children's verbal communication, body language, and other forms of expression to understand their needs.
- Adults respond appropriately to what children communicate and act when necessary.
- Children's views are respected, and they are encouraged to take part in decisions about activities and experiences in ways that are meaningful and age-appropriate.