

## **Gun Play Policy**

### **Links to Early Years Foundation Stage**

### **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Health: Managing Behaviour 3:50-3:52**

**Named Person:** Helen Trigg/Melanie Whitley

*“Children may demonstrate expertise, knowledge or experiences in their play which may sometimes shock adults, but they will only be able to play to the limits of their knowledge and experience. In their playing children give signals to practitioners and parents about what they know, how much they know, and what they need to know in order to make more sense of their world and their place in it.” Diane Rich*

Research into gun play in nurseries has concluded that banning such play does not in fact stop it but encourages children simply to lie more effectively.

Much of children’s play revolves around good vs bad, particularly boys who enjoy not just gun play but also pirates with swords, star wars with lightsabers and more.

At Small World Nursery, we believe that children’s creativity is a hugely important aspect of their development. In banning gun play all together, this can suppress their creativity and send a message that it is not valued. Instead, we choose to encourage them to develop their play and ideas further than just shooting at things. For this reason, we will ask children to leave toy guns that they have brought from home in their bags, but are happy for them to create their own and play. This is because ‘guns’ that have been ‘constructed’ will often develop into something different and it allows this transition.

We also feel that by banning gun play, we are excluding those children who have experience with guns, whether because they have lived in a country at war, or relatives in the army, or simply from the news. Children often use play to act out their fears and concerns in a safe environment and we will support this and endeavour to educate them that guns are not toys and can really hurt people. Equally, we will not tolerate violence within the nursery and any such behaviour (pushing, kicking etc) will be disciplined according to our behaviour policy.

This policy was adopted by	Small World Nursery
On	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2019
Date to be reviewed	August 2020
Signed on behalf of the provider	
Name and role of signatory	Melanie Whitley (Nursery Manager)