



Visits and Outings

As part of our commitment to delivering 'Nature School' sessions to all children at the nursery, and lucky as we are to be based in a wonderful part of the country, with the woods around the corner, park and farm shop all in the village, we believe that off site sessions provide an important and enriching role in the programme of activities that we provide for children, linking them to the community around them. However, during such events, the safety of children remains paramount and the following precautions are applied:

- A risk assessment is always carried out with the children prior to the outing, based on prior knowledge of the location. Children in this way become actively involved in making decisions about managing their own safety. Staff will explain to children what to do in an emergency, including designating a suitable meeting point, or talk about other possible dangers: for example what to do if we meet a dog. □
- We will always have the correct staff: children ratio, both on any visits and for those left at the nursery, according to statutory guidelines (see point below)
- There will always be a minimum of 2 trained and qualified members of staff on any off site excursion.
- Children over the age of 2 and who are confident at walking will be encouraged to use the "walking hoops" to ensure their safety.
- Children over the age of 3 will be taken off site with a ratio no higher than 5:1 (children to adult). This is deemed the safe number who can walk with the walking hoops that takes a maximum of 10 children (as above). They will be closely supervised by staff who will be constantly monitoring them.
- If using pushchairs they will always have 3- point harness and always be properly strapped in.
- The nursery will try to involve the children in the planning of a visit, for example thinking about what we may be able to see on an autumn or spring walk and asking what sort of places they like visiting.
- We will try to follow up on our visits, making it a talking point when we return, and for example paint leaves we have found ourselves, or share them with the children back at the nursery. .
- The Nursery will ensure that a full First Aid kit is on hand on all outings, however far we are going, in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Health, Illness and Emergency policy.
- Staff on the outing will keep 2 mobile phones with them at all times to ensure at least one will always have service.

- A register and head count will be made at the beginning of the outing – both for the children leaving the nursery and for those remaining; whilst out on the visit and again on our return.

All parents will be asked to sign permission forms agreeing to their children participating in outings as outlined in the above policy.

If we are planning a special, organised outing then we will request specific parental consent, explaining to you the nature of the visit.

Policy updated and adopted January 2015