



OUTDOOR PLAY POLICY

Rationale:

The outdoor environment

- *Being outdoors has a positive impact on children's sense of well-being and helps all aspects of children's development.*
- *Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors.*
- *It gives children first-hand contact with weather, seasons and the natural world.*
- *Outdoor environments offer children freedom to explore, use their senses, and be physically active and exuberant*

(EYFS)

- *“Outdoors should provide opportunities for children to engage in planned & freely chosen play experiences & should offer risk, challenge, variety & fun”.*

(Learning Through Landscapes)

- *“Outdoor play is a vital element of young children’s Physical, Social & Emotional development & as every practitioner knows, play is a young child’s mechanism and medium for learning. Therefore making the most out of outdoor play is essential, providing rich & varied experiences for children & early years settings are in a unique position to offer these”.*

(Learning Through Landscapes)

Aim:

To enable children to experience the outdoor environment.

- For the outdoor environment to be a continuation of the indoor environment with continuous provision available for all children in the nursery including those with special needs.
- For the outdoor environment to be made available throughout the whole session providing a good balance between child-initiated and adult-led experiences.
- To provide appropriate clothing encouraging children to experience the outdoors in all weathers.

Objectives:

We aim to:

- Provide free access to outdoor environment throughout the whole day.
- Provide continuous provision in order to encourage independent learners in the outdoor environment.
- Plan for a good balance between child-led & adult-initiated experiences.
- Observe, access and record children's learning in the outdoor environment to inform future planning.
- Ensure the outdoor environment is seen as a continuation of the indoor environment.

Method

The staff will:

- Provide appropriate clothing for example rain coats, waterproof trousers & wellies and sun hats and sun cream in the summer.
- Plan for a wide range of exciting & stimulating experiences, planning to meet all children's interests.
- Encourage children to be independent learners and to freely access the indoor & outdoor environment.

Health & Safety (See Health & Safety Policy)

- Staff to check grounds daily & carry out litter pickup
- Regular garden maintenance
- Staff to do a visual check before children access outdoors.
 - Children to be made part of carrying out risk assessments of the garden so that they can manage their own safety.
- Risk assessments to be carried out on enhanced provisions.

Equal Opportunities

All children will have access to the outdoor play curriculum regardless of gender, special educational needs, race, home or cultural background.

Policy reviewed August 2015