

All Weather Policy

Outdoor play and learning are essential to children's health, development and wellbeing. Consequently, it is vital that early years settings maximise children's opportunities to be outdoors. Outdoor learning complements indoor learning and is equally important. Play and learning that flow seamlessly between indoors and outdoors enable children to make the most of the resources and materials available to them and develop their ideas without unnecessary interruption (EYFS 2008).

Aim

We believe that all children who attend our setting should have opportunities to access outdoor play, whatever the weather or time of year. We have the doors open at all times so that there is free flow between the playroom and the outside area. In order to do this, it is important to ensure the children have the appropriate clothing and protection.

Procedure

Spring/Summer

We will talk to the children and parents about the importance of staying safe in the sun with the aim of establishing lifelong safe habits.

Children should only be allowed to access outdoor play in hot weather if they have the appropriate protection:

- Sun hats
- Clothing that covers sensitive areas i.e. neck, shoulders and backs
- Sun cream - we do provide high factor sun cream, but we recommend that sun cream is applied before children start their session. If parents would prefer to provide their own it should be at least factor 25 or above and be labelled with the child's name.

If necessary staff will apply sun cream before children go outside, re-apply as needed and record it on the sign in register.

In very hot weather children should have limited access to outdoor play at peak times of the day and shaded areas should be provided to give further protection.

Children will have free access to drinking water at all times.

Autumn/Winter

We want the children to have the opportunity to experience a range of weather from snow, and wind to ice and rain, to do this we need to ensure that children are safe and have the appropriate clothing.

Children should only be allowed access to the outdoor area in wet or cold weather with the appropriate clothing:

- hats, gloves & scarves
- warm coats
- waterproof coats
- wellies

We can also provide waterproof all-in-ones and sun hats, spare clothes, wellies, coats and hats and gloves for those children who do not have their own.

Health & Safety

As part of the daily risk assessment staff will ensure that in extreme weather (e.g. wet, icy or hot) the equipment and surfaces in the outdoor area are safe to use and adapt their use accordingly. The outdoor area will be regularly reassessed as the day progresses.

Room temperature

We have installed a door curtain that should maintain the temperature inside, but if the temperature should fall below 19 degrees then we will shut the door until the temperature rises and/or put on the fan heater. Once the temperature rises above 19 degrees the door should be re-opened and/or the fan heater should be turned off.