

Learning and Development

Outdoor Play Policy

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

Quote Ref: 3.58

“Providers must provide access to an outdoor play area or, if that is not possible, ensure that outdoor activities are planned and taken on a daily basis (unless circumstances make this inappropriate), for example unsafe weather conditions”.

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure all children have access to a richly resourced outdoor environment, and is given the opportunity to have free flow access to the outdoor area during all weathers, other than when it is unsafe to do so.

We aim to:

- To provide information and guidance to families accessing the Centre about the importance of outdoor play.
- Allow children to take controlled risks in a safe secure environment.
- Ensure the outdoor and indoor learning environments complement each other in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

What parents\carers should do

- Be aware of the health and wellbeing benefits to children who regularly access outdoor play activities.
- Ensure your child is appropriately dressed for all weather conditions.
- Encourage and enhance your child’s outdoor learning and play experiences whilst they are away from the Family Centre.

What we will do

- The Family Centre Manager will ensure a named practitioner is identified who is responsible for outdoor play for the Centre.
- The responsibility of the named practitioner for outdoor play will be to establish systems and routines so that practitioners can be successful in moving practice forward. This includes input during inset days, team meetings and encouraging the sharing of best practice across early year's settings.
- Provide opportunities for named practitioners across the sector to meet and share good practice.
- Plan outdoor learning activities to respond to children's interests and stage of development.
- Ensure risk assessments are in place for all outdoor activities.
- Provide protective outdoor clothing for your child to use, i.e. waterproof macs/hats etc.
- As part of the staff induction process and through training, we will ensure consistency in the approach to Outdoor Play.