

Outdoor Play Policy

Statement of intent

This nursery recognises the benefits from viewing the outdoor and indoor area as one learning environment. Outdoor play should be available at each session throughout the year.

Aims

We aim to:

- ★ Provide a secure and stimulating outdoor environment in which all our children can flourish and in which all contributions are valued.
- ★ Provide children with some risky play.
- ★ Involve parents by asking them to provide suitable clothing, hats and footwear for relevant weather conditions.
- ★ Offer a curriculum to the children which encourages them to develop positive attitudes to outside play which mirrors and complements the indoor provision.

Methods

To achieve our aim, we:

- ★ make staff fully aware of our garden risk assessment and their role and responsibilities in carrying it out,
- ★ involve all our staff in planning the outdoor curriculum,
- ★ allow children to 'self-regulate' their own body temperature in hot or cold weather. Where this is not appropriate staff will encourage children to take sensible precautions, i.e. find some shade or go inside to warm up,
- ★ provide the children with the same types of activities outside that they can access indoors, including,
 - Writing materials
 - Sand
 - Water
 - Books
 - Painting
 - Construction
 - Musical instruments
 - IT equipment.
 - Loose parts. i.e. stones, pipes, shells, boxes etc.
- ★ ensure that we have some outdoor storage which can be accessed by the children so they can make decisions and choices about their outdoor play.

Risky play

Involvement in risky play gives children the opportunity to access risks and manage situations. Very young children are taking daily risks, which in turn leads to new learning experiences, such as walking, running, climbing and riding wheeled toys. Each of these activities involves some risks but are necessary for their development. Risky play is no different. Success and failure provide the motivation to try again and work out different ways of doing things. Children may experience feelings such as fun, enjoyment, excitement, thrill, pride and achievement while engaging in risky play. More likely, but not uniquely, risky play may be encountered by a child in an outdoor learning space.

Methods

- Having clear systems for identifying hazards and risks through the risk assessment procedure and by using the risk-benefits system.
- Having confident and well-trained staff who use the risk-benefits information and their own common sense to perform 'dynamic assessment' throughout the day, modifying activities, removing identified high hazards and being on hand to offer support when needed and a round of applause when a child achieves their goal, thereby promoting both physical and emotional well-being.

We have a separate 'Sun Safe Policy' for outside play

This policy was adopted by Once upon a time nursery school

Date: 24 September 2007

Amended on: 10 May 2023

Signed on behalf of the nursery

To be reviewed: Annually or sooner if any matters arise