

Outdoor and Sun Safety Policy and Procedure

Policy Statement

Little Explorers and Little Stars preschools value outdoor play and learning as an intrinsic part of the curriculum. By ensuring that outdoor play and learning is an integral part of the preschool routine we seek to encourage a positive attitude to physical activity and to being outdoors, and enrich the child's understanding of, and respect for, the natural world. Outdoor play provides opportunities for children to face challenges and to take safe risks. Such opportunities are an integral and essential part of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating outdoor environment where space is used effectively to enable children to explore a broad and balanced curriculum using a range of interesting resources suitable to their individual needs.

Policy

The outdoor area is resourced and available for the children to access on a daily basis.

We aim to offer free-flow (whereby children are able to choose to play and work either indoors or outdoors) each day.

As is the case with indoor activities, time spent outdoors includes free play, independent choice, and adult-led or adult-directed activities.

The outdoor environment is an extension of the indoor classroom. Staff interact with children, provide learning experiences (both planned and unplanned) and make observations to inform future planning and progress in EYFS when working outdoors with children.

Unless the weather conditions are unusually extreme, all children will spend some time outdoors at every session. Therefore, parents are asked to provide children with suitable outdoor clothing for the weather. This includes, but is not restricted to:

- Waterproof coat
- Hat and gloves
- Shoes that are suitable and appropriate for active outdoor play
- Wellies
- Sun cream and a sun hat
- All-in-one waterproof

We believe that access to the outdoors is beneficial to the health and wellbeing of young children.

Safety & Supervision

Safety is a prime consideration when playing outdoors. The following procedures are applied to outdoor play:

- All outdoor areas are thoroughly checked daily as part of the Daily Risk Assessment. Any identified problems are either dealt with there and then or reported to the Preschool Manager who will put in place measures to ensure the safety of the children until the problem can be rectified.
- Children are always supervised when using the outdoor area.
- The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) state that: 3.28 *Children must always be within the sight or hearing of staff.* When the outdoor area is being used for free flow (i.e to allow children to flow freely between indoors and outdoors), staffing ratios must be maintained.

- All staff members participate in the supervision of children during outside play.
- If, when supervising outdoor play, a staff member needs to go indoors, they must make another member of staff aware that they are going indoors.
- Children play at their own level on the play equipment

Sun Safety

Little Explorers and Little Stars preschools understand that young skin is delicate and very easily damaged by the sun and that this damage may develop into skin cancer in later life. All children should be protected from the sun and sun cream should be applied generously and regularly as it can easily be washed, rubbed or sweated off.

At the start of each summer term, parents are reminded to:

- Bring in a sun hat for their child
- Bring in a bottle of sun cream that is clearly labelled with their child's name using a stick-on label (permanent marker rubs off the bottle when it comes into contact with sun cream)
- Apply sun cream to their child before bringing them into preschool
- Permission for staff to apply sun cream is sought at registration with parents/carers signing permission slips
- Bring to preschool a named water bottle for their child

For children who stay for the whole day, staff will re-apply sun cream after lunch. Staff will also reapply sun cream when:

- Children have been playing with water
- A child changes or removes clothing (e.g. removes a cardigan) thus exposing skin that was previously covered
- It is noticed that, despite having had sun cream applied earlier, a child's skin is beginning to look red

When applying sun cream to children, staff will only apply to exposed skin.

We expect that parents will supply a bottle of sun cream for their child.