

## Outdoor Play and Protection from the Weather Policy

We value the importance of outdoor play as an intrinsic part of our curriculum. The outdoor area is an extension of the indoor area where children have opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales and to explore the world around them. It offers children freedom to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant. We believe the outdoor environment has a positive impact on the children's sense of well-being and helps all aspects of the children's development. The curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) actively promotes playing outdoors.

We will provide adequate equipment to ensure that children are both safe and healthy whatever the weather to enable the children to play and enjoy the inside and outside environment / facilities on a daily basis.

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating outdoor environment where space is used effectively to enable children to explore a broad balanced curriculum using a range of interesting resources suitable to their individual needs. We aim to provide free-flow outside play every session where all areas of provision are reflected and take into account the children's interests.

### **In order to achieve this, we:**

- Complete a full risk assessment before the children have access to the outside area.
- Supervise children at all times whilst outside. A member of staff is deployed on outside play throughout the session. This staff member observes the flow of children and calls for extra support when needed.
- Ensure the outdoor area is safe, secure and well maintained.
- Use the garden as a natural resource for learning and extend indoor play outside.
- Provide large equipment for physical play and provide opportunities for children to develop their large motor skills.
- Ensure that the area offers children the opportunity to investigate and explore, problem solve, mark make, and use their imagination and creativity.
- Give children the opportunity to have ownership of the garden by involving them in planning.
- Help children to care for and respect the outdoor environment, care for living things, and appreciate the natural world.
- Use tools safely and effectively and follow safety rules.
- Take into account children's interests and be responsive to their learning experiences
- Allow children to expand on their interests, make choices and have freedom to explore.
- Encourage children to be independent and learn to tidy the equipment after use
- Allow children to experience all types of weather, ensuring they have with appropriate clothing.

### **How we protect children from the weather:**

- When the temperature is extremely hot it is monitored by the staff and they will decide daily whether the children need to stay indoors for their own safety. If the temperature is extremely hot and the Met Office UV rating is above 5 children will be limited to playing out before 11am and after 3pm.  
[www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)
- We encourage all children to wear a hat, preferably legionnaire style, while playing outside in the sun.
- We ask parents to provide a named sun hat, but we have a supply of spare hats available.
- We will apply broad spectrum sunscreen (min. factor 30) to all children before they can access the outside area. This will be applied at least 30 minutes before going outside.
- We support older children to apply their own sun cream to promote independence and develop self-care skills
- Babies under six months old will not be out in direct sunlight

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- When registering their child parents sign to give permission for sun cream to be applied.
- Staff will check to see if a child is allowed to have sunscreen before applying and will wash their hands in-between applying sunscreen to each child.
- We ask parents to provide a bag with seasonally appropriate spare clothing and have spare clothes available to lend to children.

***This policy was adopted at a meeting of the setting on (date).....***

***Signed on behalf of the setting.....***