

11.10 Garden Procedure

We will strive for free flow between the indoor and the outdoor space in all of our settings.

Hedge End Preschool

The indoor space is located upstairs and the garden is on ground level; we recognise how outside play is as important as inside play and facilitate this even with the play spaces being on different levels.

With all new children initially we will have to teach the children the rules and will have to go in a group to the garden and help with them master the skill of the stairs. As we become established and children gain confidence in this process we will be able to offer more free flow opportunities.

At all times we will have at least two practitioners in the garden one of whom will hold a minimum Level 3 qualification. One member of staff will position themselves by the trees at the far end of the garden and the other will be by the building monitoring the patio and gate area.

The staffing will be such that a practitioner from inside will be responsible to monitor the hallway and the stairs to assist children with coats/wellies and negotiating the stairs up and down as we will have young children of just two years old. The children are watched from the top and bottom of the stairs by two members of staff. Children are encouraged to use the hand rail and to walk down the left side and up the right. The children walk single file with spaces between them.

We use hand held walky talkies to communicate when children require access back into the building for toileting or in an emergency. The walky talky is kept with the nominated person and responded to as soon as possible.

The children are never left unattended in the peg room area at the top of the stairs, the stair gate is always closed when children are present even if the garden area is not in use. The door between the main playroom and peg room is always kept closed.

Chandlers Ford Nursery

Nest

Our garden is on the same level as the inside play areas and there is at least one qualified (minimum Level 3) practitioner in the garden, another practitioner will be present if ratios require.

Preschool

The member of staff (minimum Level 3) will position themselves so they have good visibility of all areas of the garden.

If only one practitioner is required then the children are made aware they must not go past the trees as the practitioner can't see past them until the 2nd practitioner is present.