

Outdoor Play Policy

Our large rear garden forms an important part of the children's education and learning. The children have the opportunity to explore the natural environment and enhance their knowledge and understanding of the world.

The outdoor area replicates the learning zones within the setting. Children can freely extend their knowledge, education and learning. Children appear more active, absorbed, motivated and purposeful and have a more positive approach to learning whilst outdoors. Exercise also improves children's emotional health, their confidence can grow and it's a key tool to aid self-esteem, many children may be more comfortable with themselves and others outdoors. It's a chance to connect with the natural world. The nursery garden has many opportunities to broaden those imaginations, develop vital skills, improve fitness, improve health and well-being, create their own teaching opportunities. Outdoor play in all weather's benefits children, heightening their sensory experiences, wind, snow, rain, learning about seasons, seeing those crunchy leaves fall from the trees!! Having the space and freedom, to work off their energy, improve their speed, strength, stamina and motor skills, which in turn supports their self-image and awareness of their own bodies. Alternative benefits of outdoor play the children are able to explore the unknown, the unpredictable and the adventurous.

The children can gain vital educational opportunities learning about mini beasts through regular observation of our bug hotel, discovering insects crawling around, listening to sounds made by creatures in the environment. Exploring the possibilities to find them hidden, their homes, and how they live and create their existence.

Outdoor play is incorporated in daily curriculum of our setting, The little Learners have the opportunity to use the garden spontaneously during the day. They are able to devise their own play, take part in adult led activities governed by child's interest e.g., pirate sessions, parachute sessions, treasure hunts and many more. The Little Explorers and Little Wrigglers make use of the rear garden every day during play sessions and spontaneous activities too!

Staff will assess the weather conditions when planning the daily sessions and spontaneous activities. Resources are available for rainy days, with the use of full weather clothing, umbrellas and wellies. Parents are asked to ensure all weather clothing, including changes of outfits are readily available, hats and gloves for those snowy days. Who loves to build a snowman!!!

During sunny weather we have areas that are shaded and adequate for the children to still enjoy the outdoors but in a safe environment. We have gazebos that shade the garden. Staff will use their discretion or parental wishes on determining appropriate summer clothing. However, nursery reserves the right to remove items if we feel the child is overheating. Sun cream and hats are available please refer to our Sun Care policy.

We do highly encourage outdoor play and all children do have the opportunity to participate but if a parent strongly wishes their child/children to remain indoors this can **ONLY** be sanctioned if there are sufficient members of staff to supervise the remaining children outside and the children and staff ratio indoors is adequate and other children are not missing opportunities for education and learning.