



## **Outdoor Play Policy**

At Loversall Farm Day Nursery we are committed to the importance of outdoor play and physical development in all children regardless of their age and stage of development and in all weathers. Where possible activities will be made accessible to children with learning difficulties and disabilities to ensure inclusive access of the outdoor area.

Children need regular access to outdoor play to keep fit and healthy, develop their large and small muscles, experience learning in a natural environment and access sunlight in order to absorb vitamin D more effectively.

The outdoor areas, both within the nursery grounds and in the local community have a wealth of experiences which help children to develop in a variety of ways, including independence, exploration and investigative skills, risk taking and self-esteem all of which support children to develop skills for now and the future.

The nursery will ensure all areas are safe and secure through close supervision and the use of robust risk assessments and safety checks. Where possible and appropriate, play that helps children understand and manage risks will be planned and encouraged. This type of play allows children to explore and find their own boundaries in a safe environment with supportive practitioners. Staff are informed of the importance of safety procedures and are trained appropriately to ensure these procedures are followed effectively.

Parents' permission will be sought before any child leaves the nursery during the day, this includes short outings into the local community. Please refer to the visits and outings policy for further information on this process.

All outdoor play opportunities and outings will complement the indoor activities and provide children with purposefully planned activities that support and follow individual children's interests. There is a balance of both adult-led and child-initiated opportunities to enable children to learn and practice new skills, knowledge and behaviours.

The children will access the outdoors in all weathers unless the risk assessment indicates a risk to the children's health and safety. We ask that all parents provide their children with appropriate

outdoor clothing including; coats, hats, gloves, wellingtons and sun hats. The nursery will provide 'muddy puddles' (all in one, waterproof clothing) so children can enjoy playing in the rain whilst remaining dry underneath.

***'Remember, there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing! We will not let bad weather spoil our learning.'***

The nursery will use this policy alongside the following policies to ensure the safety and welfare of children throughout their time outside.

- Health and safety
- Sun care
- Babies and toddlers
- Lost child policy
- Parents and carers as partners
- Supervision of children
- Visits and outings.
- Safe guarding and child protection

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| <b>This policy was adopted on</b>      | June 2017      |
| <b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b> |                |
| <b>Signed by nursery owner</b>         |                |
| <b>Date for review</b>                 | September 2026 |