



Outdoor Play Policy

At Spice Childcare we are committed to the importance of outdoor play and physical development in all children regardless of their age and stage of development. All activities will be made accessible to children with learning difficulties and disabilities to ensure all children are able to freely and independently use the outdoor area and physical play opportunities to best effect.

Children need regular access to outdoor play in order to develop their large and small muscles, experience an environment that is different to the inside of the setting and more importantly access sunlight in order to absorb vitamin D more effectively.

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

We will ensure that all areas of the setting are safe and secure through close supervision and the use of robust risk assessments and safety checks. Staff are informed of the importance of these procedures and are trained appropriately to ensure these procedures are followed effectively.

All outdoor play opportunities and outings will complement the indoor activities and provide children with both adult-led and child-initiated opportunities (wherever appropriate) to enable children to learn and practice new skills, knowledge and behaviours.

Implementation

- All parents should ensure that their child has the appropriate clothing and shoes to wear outdoors.
- Parents are asked to bring a pair of named wellington boots for their child.
- Sun hats must be provided for children to wear in sunny weather.
- Children must have their own sun cream named and dated with prior written consent for staff to apply.

- All parents should supply a change of clothing for their child. This should be in a bag and hung on their coat peg.
- We believe that access to the outdoor area is beneficial to the health and well-being of young children. As a consequence we do not want to restrict a child's choice to play and learn outdoors. If your child is not well enough to go outside, we would ask that they are kept home from the setting.

The setting 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
- Parents and Carers as Partners
- Supervision of Children
- Visits and Outings

Internal use only

This policy was adopted on	
Signed on behalf of Spice Childcare	
Date for review	