

Outdoor Play Policy

At Little Pumpkins Nursery, the outdoors is the ideal environment for experiential learning, because it offers unique opportunities to be creative, to move around, to be noisy and to take risks. The outdoors is full of special stimuli such as weather, sounds, smells and textures which can enrich and enhance a child's learning environment.

Being outdoors enhances all aspects of children's development: social, physical, creative, cultural and personal. Children with these skills are better able to learn and to retain that learning. In doing so it provides a rich context for the development of their language and encourages positive attitudes towards a healthy lifestyle.

Outdoor play should be seen as an integral part of early years' provision. At Little Pumpkins Nursery, our children are given the opportunity to work in both our indoor and outdoor areas using the resources which best meet their needs on a daily basis all year round.

The aim of both indoor and outdoor play is to provide a stimulating environment for children's learning in all areas of the EYFS curriculum. Close observation is essential in order to assess children's ability and to ensure appropriate planning and continuity for the outdoor curriculum.

The provision and planning for outdoor play, just as indoor play, must reflect the diversity and richness of the experience and developing interests of the children.

Slide/Climbing frame

The slide and climbing frame provide lots of fun and an opportunity for developing new physical skills and enjoyment although it also brings danger. Children need to learn about danger and risk taking, however, in order to reduce the risk of possible accidents and the following procedures must be followed:

- Children will be encouraged to share and take turns
- Staff will explain risks (appropriate to age) of pushing and standing on the slide or running up the wrong way
- The slide and climbing frame will be checked for wear and tear/damage regularly and withdrawn from use if faulty
- Children will be encouraged to participate but will not be made to do any activity they are uncomfortable with

Water table

Children can have great fun playing with water and it can also support their development in a variety of ways. However, there are safety issues when children play with the water table therefore staff will:

- Never leave children unsupervised with water
- If a child needs our attention, we will make sure the other children are safe
- Water tables will be emptied when not in use and refilled each day
- Children will be supported to learn about water safety

Sandpit

Whilst sandpits can provide great play and learning opportunities, they can also pose several health and safety risks. To prevent these staff will:

- Only use sand which is suitable for play and purchased from a recognised source
- Dispose of soiled sand
- Ensure the sandpit is covered to prevent animals using it as a litter tray
- Teach the children to keep the sand low to prevent it getting into their own and others eyes

Paddling pool

Children can have great fun using a paddling pool and it can also support their development in a variety of ways. However, there are safety issues when children play with water and staff will follow procedures set out below:

- Children will never be left unsupervised with water
- If a child needs the toilet, then all other children in the pool will be supervised accordingly
- The staff will take enough towels and spare clothes outside.
- The pool will be emptied when not in use
- The pool will be refilled each day when in use
- Staff will support the children to learn about water safety
- Staff will never make a child go into the pool if they don't want to but will provide activities, they can do in the pool area
- The Nursery will request that parents inform us if their child has a verruca on their foot so measures can be put in place to prevent it from spreading
- If toddlers and babies are in nappies, staff will request parents provide some form of swimming nappy to prevent the pool from becoming contaminated
- Emergency procedures are in place and First Aiders will be available

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