

Laurencekirk Nursery



Outdoor Play Policy

UNCRC in Article 31 states: Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities.

Learning outdoors creates a context which encourages children and young people to make connections with the world and their learning indoors. Our children have regular access to fresh air and engage in energetic activities. They exercise choice and take increasing responsibility for their own learning. Play outdoors allows for the children to play and work independently, meet in small numbers or be part of a large group and work cooperatively.

Our outdoor play procedures:

- A member of staff conducts a risk assessment of the nursery outdoor area before each session and signs off the checklist.
- Adult gets dressed appropriately for the weather. Staff clothing is kept in the stock cupboard.
- Children are reminded to go to the toilet before going out.
- Children are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather and independently prepare themselves. Spare clothing is available if required.
- If children are going out with our own outside area then an adult ticks off the children involved and writes the total number of children that have gone on the board. Adult takes the rucksack along with any required inhalers/medications, walkie talkies or mobile phone as appropriate.
- Before going off to play get the children to conduct their own risk assessment using their own checklist and discuss any changes due to weather conditions for example.
- Children help to tidy up resources.
- Children are encouraged to undress themselves and store their outdoor shoes in the welly rack.
- Children wash their hands when returning from outside play.
- One adult stays outside to lock away equipment and close gates and upon returning fills out an evaluation/reflection of the learning which has taken place.

Updated March 2016

Review March 2017