



Outdoor Play Procedure

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.

"All children and young people enjoy high quality play opportunities, particularly outdoor free play in stimulating spaces with access to nature, on a daily basis in early learning and childcare, nursery and school." Play Strategy for Scotland, 2013.

We are committed to promoting and improving the quality of our outdoor play and use the following guidance to support our delivery of outdoor play and provision.

The following procedure has been written based on *My World Outdoors*, Care Inspectorate, 2016; *Health and Social Care Standards My support, my life*, Care Inspectorate, 2017; (regarding descriptive statements, 1.25, 1.31, 1.32, 2.27), *Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Vision*, 2013; *National Building the Ambition: National Practice Guidance on Early Learning and Childcare*, Scottish Government, 2014.

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. A small group of children will assist in the checking of the outside area before all the children access outside discussing why we are checking it and what we are looking for to make sure it is safe. This discussion will be supported by using a child friendly safety checklist.
- Children are encouraged to freely choose what they would like to play with and staff will accommodate requests for specific resources if not readily available to the children, if there is space to accommodate this.
- The outside door is securely left open and the outside member of staff will announce to all children that the outdoor area is open. When the outside door is open children know that they can freely go outside.
- Children are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather and independently prepare themselves. Spare clothing is available if required. Staff support children by encouraging appropriate clothing e.g. wellies, waterproofs.

Laurencekirk Nursery

- Staff are flexible and move with the children meaning that there is always an appropriate amount of staff outside to support learning through play.
- 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 packed with the first aid kit along with any required inhalers/medications, walkie talkies or mobile phone as appropriate.
- Towards the end of the session the children will help to tidy up resources.
- Children are encouraged to undress themselves and store their outdoor shoes in the welly rack. If boots are particularly muddy, they will be removed outside so that mud is not brought through the room.
- 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.

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