

STAMPERS PRE-SCHOOL

Outdoor Learning Policy – (reviewed 29.3.16)

Statement of intent

We value outdoor play as an intrinsic part of the curriculum. By ensuring outdoor play is an integral part of the pre-school routine, we consciously seek to convey a positive attitude to the outdoors and enrich the child's understanding and enjoyment of the world around him/her.

Active learning experiences outdoors are essential for young children. They give children opportunities to practise their developing skills, make them feel good and explore their world. It is also important for children's physical, mental and emotional development.

We believe that children should begin to take risks and face challenges outdoors. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) fully supports playing outdoors.

Aim

- To enable children to use the outdoor areas as a context for learning throughout the year. These include the Early Years outdoor area, the woods, the school field, the school playground, and the school gardening area.
- To provide a safe, stimulating outdoor environment where space is used effectively to enable children to explore a broad and balanced curriculum using a range of interesting resources suitable to their individual needs.

Method

- The outdoor area will be resourced and available for the children to access on a daily basis.
- Children will have access to the outdoors regularly and adult led activities may be planned for outdoors.
- Parents/carers are required to provide children with appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather in order to enable them to fully access the activities outside. This will include, but is not restricted to: warm waterproof coat, gloves and hat; footwear appropriate for playing outside; sun protection cream and a hat. Parents/carers are also required to provide a change of clothes in case the first set become wet/muddy during play.
- The outdoor area will be risk assessed daily to ensure the safety of the children. Resources are provided for the age and stage of the children. Some more 'risky' activities, eg firepit activities, use of real tools, climbing - will undergo a 'risk-benefit analysis' - where the benefits of the activity will be weighed against the advantages, and any special measures put in place to ensure the risks are reduced to an acceptable level.
- Children will be encouraged to risk-assess activities themselves.

We believe, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (which we are bound by law to follow), that access to the outdoor area is essential to the health and wellbeing of young children. As a consequence, children will be *required* to play and learn outdoors regularly.

If your child is not well enough to go outside, we ask that they are kept at home until fit to return to preschool. This includes being outside.

We do not have enough staff most of the time to enable some children to remain in and some outside.

Whenever children are using the outdoor area we will ensure it is appropriately staffed using the same ratios of adults to children as apply indoors. Staff will make observations to inform future planning when working with children in the outdoor area.

See also: Equality and Diversity Policy, Equipment and Resources Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Planning, Observation and Assessment Policy, Safeguarding Children Policy, Sun Protection Policy.