

OUTDOOR PLAY STATEMENT.

Please also refer to safety policy and HSE document Play and Leisure

We believe that learning outdoors is essential for young children. Our outdoor space provides a safe, stimulating environment where space is used effectively to enable children to explore a broad balanced curriculum using a range of interesting resources suitable to their individual needs. We also encourage the children to take risks in their play and refer to HSE document **CHILDREN'S PLAY AND LEISURE – PROMOTING A BALANCED APPROACH** and their key measure

Play is great for children's well-being and development. When planning and providing play opportunities, the goal is not to eliminate risk, but to weigh up the risks and benefits. No child will learn about risk if they are wrapped in cotton wool'.

We aim to provide some free-flow outside play every session. The doors will be closed if we cannot maintain a safe adult/child ratio or if weather conditions are too severe (gales, thunder and lightning, hail, ice, slush, heavy rain).

We encourage the children, whatever the weather, to play and enjoy the outside environment and our outside self-registration system ensures that every child has accessed the learning opportunities outside during a session. Parents are requested to provide warm clothing in the winter and sun hats and sunscreen in the summer. We have an awning, which gives protection from sun and rain.

We ensure that our outdoor space is safe and secure by annual and daily risk assessments (please see our risk assessments) and regular checks for poisonous plants or hazards items. Staff are deployed adequately. We also take the children out to our local recreation ground. This would be classed as an outing (please see our safety policy).