



Outdoor Play

The outdoors can provide space and freedom for a type of learning that is difficult to replicate indoors. All children have the right to experience the unique and special nature of being outdoors. At Little Professors Nursery we feel that it is important to enable children to use the outdoor environment as a context for learning throughout the year.

Aims

- To raise the profile of outdoor learning
- To empower the children to take ownership of their learning, allowing their minds and bodies to thrive.
- To provide a safe and secure environment that they can take risks in.
- To encourage children to care for their environment.

Possibilities for outdoor learning will be considered throughout our planning, using it as a context and natural resource for learning.

Procedures for outside play:

- Staff to ensure children are given opportunities to explore the natural environment, and encourage their curiosity.
- The outdoor area should be set up each morning by the late staff in accordance with the plans, and put away each evening by the early staff.
- Outdoor areas must be checked before the children go out to play, by one member of the team to ensure there are no dangers to the children, completing daily check list.
- Signing in sheets to be taken outside.
- Gates must be secured.
- Toys to be accessible at all times.
- Toys should be set out to cover all areas of learning, not only physical activities, i.e. bikes.
- A first aider should be outside at all times.
- A first aid kit should be taken outside at all times and a door or window left open or a student out with the group so that quick contact with the staff inside the nursery can be made in the event of an accident.
- If children are not taken outside for any reason; outdoor plans must be adapted for indoor play work so they do not miss out on their physical session.

- Children to be toileted and all nappy changes carried out prior to going outside. If children need to go to the toilet, or require a nappy change than 2 members of staff must be present.
- A notice to go on the front door when all children outside, asking parents to ring the office door. Parents will then access the outdoor area through the corridor door.
- Nursery staff must give their children at least one outdoor session per day.
- A remote alarm to be taken outside at all times.
- No mobile phones to be taken outside
- No hot drinks, mugs or glasses to be taken outside.
- Staff to be aware of health and safety at all times.
- Staff and students to interact with children at all times.

The following factors will be taken into consideration in different weather conditions.

Hot Weather

- Children will be encouraged to play outdoors, however a risk assessment will be taken to determine if in the interests of children's safety outdoor play maybe restricted at the hottest parts of the day.
- Shade will be provided in the outdoor area.
- Children will be encouraged to drink water regularly.
- Children will wear sun hats and sun cream will be applied before the children play outdoors in hot weather, along with staff.

Wet Weather

- Suitable waterproof clothing will be provided to enable children to experience splashing in puddles, playing in the rain or snow.
- We ask parents to provide their children with suitable footwear during wet weather (if parents have any spare wellingtons they would be greatly appreciated)

Cold Weather

- Children will be dressed appropriately with coats, hats and gloves before playing outside.
- Where possible the nursery will try to build a spare bank of additional clothing that can be used in emergencies to enable the children to continue to access the outdoors (any donations from parents would be gratefully received)

Staff Ratio's

- At all times, staff/child ratio's (both indoors and outdoors) should be maintained in line with Ofsted guidance

Policy for the Outside panic alarm

1. All outside panic alarms need to be kept away from the children, so they do not set them off by accident.
2. Please ensure that all panic alarms are switched into the off position until the need to be used.
3. Could you ensure that all panic alarms are returned to the correct rooms where they can be stored.
4. If you need to use the panic alarm for any reason, push the grey button on, and press the two orange buttons together, if you look at the bottom of the panic alarm a red light will come on as you press it.
5. Then security will come directly to the nursery to help.
6. All panic alarms are checked weekly by security and again that need repairing at taken away and replaced.