

LITTLE FIRS DAY NURSERY



48. Outdoor Play Policy & Procedure



This policy and procedure links to the following:

Legal Framework: Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): 1.3, 3.58

Little Firs Policies & Procedures: Health and Safety, Sun Care, Caring for Children Under Three, Lost Child Policy, Parents and Carers as Partners, Supervision of Children, Safeguarding and Child Protection and Outings.

At Little Firs we are committed to the importance of daily outdoor play and the physical development of all children regardless of their age and stage of development. We provide outdoor play in all weathers.

We recognise that children need regular access to outdoor play in order to keep fit and healthy, develop their large and fine motor skills, experience learning in a natural environment and access sunlight in order to absorb vitamin D more effectively. We also refer to The Chief Medical Office guidance on physical activity.¹

Our outdoor areas have a wealth of experiences and resources which help children to develop in a variety of ways, including independence, exploration and investigative skills, risk taking and self-esteem, all of which support children to develop skills now and for the future.

We ensure all areas are safe and secure through close supervision and risk assessments and safety checks. Where possible and appropriate, we plan and encourage play that helps children understand and manage risks. This type of play allows children to explore and find their own boundaries in a safe environment with supportive practitioners. Staff are informed of the importance of safety procedures and are trained appropriately to ensure these procedures are followed effectively.

We plan all outdoor play opportunities and outings to complement the indoor activities and provide children with purposeful activities that support and follow individual children's interests. There is a balance of both adult-led and child-initiated opportunities to enable children to learn and practice new skills, knowledge and behaviours.

Where activities take place away from the nursery, a mobile phone and first aid kit will always be taken to ensure the safety of children and all staff are trained paediatric first aiders.

We use this policy alongside the following policies to ensure the safety and welfare of children throughout their time outside:

- Health and Safety
- Sun Care

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-physical-activity-guidelines

- Caring for Children under Three
- Lost Child Policy
- Parents and Carers as Partners
- Supervision of Children
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Outings.

Date of Review	This Policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the Nursery	Date for review
August 2019			August 2020