

Outdoor Play Policy

Rationale: At Wybunbury Delves we aim to light the spark for a love of learning and of life and believe that the outdoor environment offers the best opportunities to achieve this. We adopt SPARK approach to learning to foster and maintain children's curiosity in the world around them.

Through careful consideration our outdoor areas in the Early years reflect our spiritual and holistic approach to children where they can see and experience the wonder of God's creation.

Aim:

To enable children to experience the outdoor environment.

- ◊ For the outdoor environment to be a continuation of the indoor environment with continuous provision available for all children in Early Years setting including those with special needs.
- ◊ For the outdoor environment to be made available throughout the whole session providing a good balance between child-initiated and adult-led experiences.
- ◊ To provide appropriate clothing encouraging children to experience the outdoors in all weathers.

Objectives:

We aim to:

- ◊ Enable children access to the outdoor environment throughout the whole day.
- ◊ Provide continuous provision in order to encourage independent learners in the outdoor environment.
- ◊ Plan for a good balance between child-led & adult-initiated experiences.
- ◊ Observe, access and record children's learning in the outdoor environment to inform future planning.
- ◊ Ensure the outdoor environment is seen as a continuation of the indoor environment.
- ◊ Ensure the garden offers children the opportunity to investigate and explore, problem solve, use their imagination and creativity.
- ◊ Ensure that children enjoy energetic activity outdoors and the feeling of well-being that it brings.

Method

The staff will:

- ◊ Provide appropriate clothing for example raincoats, waterproof pants & children's personal wellies.
- ◊ Plan for a wide range of exciting & stimulating experiences, planning to meet all children's interests.
- ◊ Encourage children to be independent learners and to freely access the indoor & outdoor environment.

Monitoring & Evaluation

This will include:

- ◊ Staff observations, discussions & feedback.
- ◊ Annually discussing & reviewing the validity of the policy to ensure it is meeting the needs of the children.
- ◊ Discussion & feedback from children & parents.

Success Criteria

The principles of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage underpin the planning & organisation of the outdoor environment, ensuring all needs & interests are met.

Health & Safety (See Health & Safety Policy)

- ◇ Site supervisor to check grounds daily & carry out litter pickup
- ◇ Regular grounds maintenance
- ◇ Staff to do a visual check before children access outdoors.
- ◇ Child – Adult ratio maintained.
- ◇ Risk assessments to be carried out on enhanced provisions.

Equal Opportunities

All children will have access to the outdoor play curriculum regardless of gender, special educational needs, race, home or cultural background.

We recognise it is important to value the home background of all the children in the preschool

LT / TG / KC

Reviewed October 2020