



Outdoor Learning Policy

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Totterdown Preschool believe that it is important for the children in our setting to have the opportunity to experience the outdoors. Active learning experiences outdoors are essential for young children. They give children the opportunity to practice their developing skills, makes them feel good, and enables them to 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

We aim to make the children's experiences outdoors happy, safe and healthy ones.

Method

The outdoor area will be resourced and available for the children to access on a daily basis. Children will need to have appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather in order to enable them to fully access the activities outside. We ask all parents to provide wellies that can be left at the preschool for children to access at all times.

We believe that access to the outdoor area is beneficial to the health and wellbeing of young children. As a consequence we do not want to restrict a child's choice to play and learn outdoors.

Whenever children are using the outdoor areas we will ensure that there is always a member of staff present.

Staff will make observations to inform future planning when working with children in the outdoor areas.

Staff will also endeavour to adhere to the following:

- Our outdoor area is securely fenced.
- Our outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of rubbish before it is used.
- Parents are advised that children need to wear appropriate clothing for summer / winter.

- Supplies of spare gloves, hats, caps, coats and jackets are kept by the Pre School and used when needed.
- Sun protection - see Sun policy.
- Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied before children start to play outside.
- Our outdoor sand pit is covered when not in use and is cleaned out regularly.
- All outdoor activities are supervised at all times following government guidelines for staff and child ratios.
- Any resources/ equipment used is done so under supervision and taught how to be used properly and safely.
- All forest school activities and sessions are supervised, assessed and monitored with the use of risk assessments and reviewed regularly. See Forest School Policy.

Agreed by Claire Childs and Shamira Lumsden

Reviewed on August 2021

STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have read this policy and will adhere to it in future practice: