



NOAH'S ARK NURSERY SCHOOLS

Outdoor Play Policy

Rationale

- Being outdoors has a positive impact on children's sense of well-being and helps all aspects of children's development.
- Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on a different scale than when indoors.
- It gives children first-hand contact with weather, seasons and the natural world.
- Outdoor environments offer children freedom to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant.

The Learning Environment – The Early Years Foundation Stage 2008

At Noah's Ark we feel outdoor play is vital as it:

- Enables children to become independent learners.
- Encourages social and moral development.
- Encourages children to grow in confidence and self esteem.
- Promotes and enables physical activity.
- Allows children to take risks.
- Allows time to consolidate skills learned.

Aims

At Noah's Ark we aim to enable all children to use the outdoor space as a context for learning in all six areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage throughout the year.

We aim to:

- Have an outdoor environment that is safe, secure, stimulating, well organised and well resourced.
- Have children who are fit and healthy, feel valued, confident, independent, able to take risks and are well motivated.
- Have adults, both staff and parents, who understand and are enthusiastic about the value of learning out of doors; who promote equality of opportunity, support children in their learning with appropriate intervention and work collaboratively as part of a team.

Objectives

We aim to:

- use the outdoor space as a context and a natural resource for learning.
- include the outdoors when planning for learning.
- ensure all children have opportunities to be outside on a daily basis all year round.
- ensure that the outdoor space offers children the opportunity to investigate and explore, problem solve, use their imagination and creativity.
- ensure the outdoors offers children opportunities to develop their large motor skills.

- ensure that children enjoy energetic activity outdoors and the feeling of wellbeing that it brings.
- observe and assess and record the learning that happens outside.
- give children opportunity to plan and have ownership for their learning whilst outdoors.
- help children to care for the outside environment through the context of the outdoors.
- enable children to work on their own and with others.
- enable children to develop an appreciation of natural beauty and a sense of wonder about the world.
- respect the outdoor environment and to care for living things.
- enable children to manage and use the space and freedom afforded by the outdoor space.
- use tools safely and effectively and to follow nursery safety rules.
- where possible, link the outdoor and indoor environments so that children can move freely between them.

Procedures

The staff will:

- facilitate access to the outside space on a daily basis through discussion and staff meetings, planning and mutual agreement.
- plan activities for all areas of the curriculum.
- provide resources for all areas of the curriculum.
- organise and provide necessary resources as appropriate, for example clothing, footwear, tools, etc.
- encourage children to use a variety of natural resources.
- establish a set of rules, with input from the children, that allow for freedom but ensure safety, and recognise and reflect differences in the indoor and outdoor environments.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This will include:

- staff observations, discussions and feedback from children and parents.
- discuss and review the validity of the policy to ensure it is meeting the needs of the children.
- EYFS curriculum monitoring guidelines.
- health and safety guidelines.

Success Criteria

This policy supports staff in consistently promoting the EYFS document and supports children in making progress in the six key areas of the curriculum.

Annette Miller

May 2009

Reviewed January 2011

CONCLUSION

The Governors and Staff of the School are committed to keeping this policy under regular review and the Governor responsible will ensure that the matters contained herein are regularly discussed and further developed to the benefit of all users.

Signed :

Mr Charlie Colchester

Chairman of the Board of Governors