



Large Play Equipment Policy

It is well known that exercise is vital to aid the physical development of young children and to encourage them to continue a healthy lifestyle into their adult years. We encourage the children in our care to join in all sorts of different physical activities and provide a range of resources to make it fun and enjoyable.

In our garden areas there is a range of outdoor equipment, including one or two larger items – i.e. slides, water wall, water table, obstacle courses, and a playhouse. Whilst these provide lots of opportunities for developing new physical skills and enjoyment it also brings a slight risk. Children need to learn about danger and risk taking, however in order to minimise the risks, to make the environments as safe as possible and to reduce the risk of possible accidents we have put the following procedures in place:

- All children will be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.
- Children will be taught the dangers of the equipment in a way that is suitable for their stage of development and understanding.
- Children will be encouraged to take turns and share equipment
- The equipment will be checked/cleaned before use
- The equipment will be checked for wear and tear/damage regularly and withdrawn from use if faulty (if at Little Gulls & Buoys) and stopped from using it if in a public place.
- Children will be encouraged to participate but will not be made to do any activity that they are uncomfortable with.
- Our risk assessment document outlines the risks and mitigation of outdoor physical play
- Classes such as Forest School which also use play equipment (eg rope swings) are also risk assessed by the organizer of the class and this is shared with Little Gulls & Buoys in advance and filed with our risk assessment records.

If you have any concerns regarding your child using any piece of equipment at Little Gulls & Buoys or in a public place please do discuss them with us.

Original author and date created	Louise Adams, Director and Manager, January 2015
Date amended and author	Julia Knight, Director, May 2016
Next review date unless practices change and update required.	Reviewed March 2018, again in March 2019