



PUDDLEDUCKS

Nursery and Pre-School

OUTDOORS POLICY

Outdoors

- All gates and fences are childproof, safe, and secure.
- Areas are checked daily to make sure animal droppings, litter, glass etc. is removed. Staff wear rubber gloves to do this.
- Bushes or overhanging trees are checked to ensure they do not bear poisonous berries.
- Stinging nettles and brambles are removed.
- Safety mats are provided under climbing equipment, even when on grass
- Wooden equipment is maintained safely, put away daily and not used if broken.
- Wooden equipment is sanded and varnished as required.
- Broken climbing equipment or outdoor toys are removed and reported to the setting manager.
- Children are always supervised within ratios outside.
- Children are suitably attired for the weather conditions and type of outdoor activities.
- Children are supervised on climbing equipment, especially younger children.
- Water play is not left out but is cleared, cleaned and stored after each use.
- Receptacles are left upturned to prevent collection of rainwater, this is important in areas where there are vermin to prevent urine/faeces contaminating the water.
- Sightings of vermin are recorded and reported to the manager who reports to the Environmental Health's Pest Control Department.

- Outdoor areas that have flooded are not used until cleaned down and restored. Grassed areas are not played on for at least one week after the floodwater has gone.
- If paddling pools are used, a risk assessment is conducted, and consideration given to the needs of disabled children or those less ambulant.

Sun Care

Young children need special care when they are in the sun. They love playing outdoors, but they are not aware of how the sun can damage their skin. So as adults it is important that we take precautions for them.

The benefits children gain from playing in the sun are the absorption of vitamin D, improved physical and mental well-being and the learning potential the outdoor environment offers.

It is important therefore that children, especially young children, are given the protection they deserve. (Health Education Authority 1998)

Procedures

- Staff to provide protective care for all children over the summer months (April - September).
- Staff will encourage children to apply their own cream with help and support where required. Only visible body parts will be protected.
- Staff will apply protective cream to faces and neck.
- Staff to ensure all children wear hats, preferably legionnaire style hats, when playing outside during the hours 11am - 3pm. Outside play will be restricted to limited periods in extreme weather conditions.
- Children who have no adequate means of sun protection, such as a hat, long sleeves and trousers or sun cream, will not be able to play outdoors in un-shaded areas.
- We request all families provide sun cream factor 15+ for their child / children, clearly labelled, to be stored and used at the setting.

- To dress their child in appropriate clothing and footwear and provide sun hats at all times.

Drones

If there are concerns about a 'drone' being flown over the outdoor area that may compromise children's safety or privacy, the setting manager will contact the police on 101.

- Children will be brought inside immediately.
- Parents will be informed that a Drone has been spotted flying over the outdoor area and will be advised fully of the actions taken by the setting.
- The police will have their own procedures to follow and will act accordingly.
- If at any point following the incident, photographs taken by a drone emerge on social media that could identify the nursery or individual children, these are reported to the police.
- A record is completed in the Notifiable Incident Record unless there is reason to believe that the incident might have safeguarding implications, for example:
 - the drone has hovered specifically over the outdoor area for any length of time
 - there is a likelihood that images of the children have been recorded
 - is spotted on more than one occasion
 - if the Police believe there is cause for concern

Where this is the case, Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults' procedures are followed.

This policy was reviewed February 2022. Date of next review July 2023