

k. Outdoor Policy

Outdoor play is paramount to young children's development and learning.

The outdoor **environment** is a prime opportunity for teaching and learning, and adults will interact with the children to extend their knowledge and skills.

Please also refer to our [Environmental Awareness Policy](#).

Our Aims:

- We aim to ensure that all children will access the outdoors on a daily basis, whether this through a play session in the garden, or going out into their local community.
- Outdoor play and exploration is an integral part of the routine and curriculum offered at nursery and should be an enjoyable experience for the children and staff alike.
- We endeavour to make the most of offered opportunities through the environment, activities, equipment and stimulation.

The Early Years Foundation Stage states that: "Providers must provide access to an outdoor play area and ensure that outdoor activities are planned and taken on a daily basis."

Policy

Children are supported to access the garden in all weathers, except in cases of extreme or adverse weather. This includes children who may be suffering from illnesses such as coughs or colds and if a parent feels their child is not well enough to take part in all of the setting's daily routine, it may be necessary for them to recover at home in line with our [Children's Sickness Policy](#).

Whilst we will provide waterproofs for water play, parents are asked to provide appropriate spare clothing for the children, with hats and gloves in cold weather and sunhats on hot days.

Your nursery garden is risk assessed daily, to ensure the safety of the children whilst toys and equipment are checked for damage when they are set out and tidied away.

A variety of resources are available to the children, to support their learning and development within all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

All equipment is left neatly ready for the next group of children or tidied away appropriately at the end of the day.

Nursery Village utilise outdoor play:

- To promote a safe, purposeful and happy atmosphere where children can experience joy and excitement in the outdoors
- To foster positive, caring attitudes among all those involved in learning outdoors.
- To plan for and provide high quality outdoor play activities for children of all abilities in which they can acquire new skills and discover new experiences

- To enhance the development of motor skills (gross and fine).
- To develop co-ordination, balance and body awareness.
- To provide the opportunity for children to take appropriate risks safely, children can play and socialise freely and using imagination and their own initiative.
- To enhance children's long term social, emotional and cognitive development through learning outdoors.
- To raise children's self-esteem and self-confidence through exploration of outdoor environments.
- To enable children, staff and parents to be part of our local community, including visiting local shops and parks weekly to develop a sense of direction and a feeling of belonging.
- To enable children to use their imagination to create tunnels, bridges and roads using all types of equipment and resources.
- So children are able to explore mud and cooking in a role play environment.

The care of living things

- Children at nursery are involved in growing bulbs, seeds, the care of plants and feeding birds.
- Children are involved in care of pets, mini-beasts and other animals as appropriate.
- Stories chosen will reinforce the concept of care of living things.
- Food activities are chosen to introduce the idea of growing and preparing food.
- Staff will at all times be a positive role model and show their respect for living things and are encouraged not to show their fears or worries around the children e.g fear of spiders.

Using community resources

- We develop strong links with the local community.
- Children are taken on walks around the locality and visit places of interest.
- Members of the local community can be invited to nursery to talk to children.
- Themes and topics chosen to link in with local resources.
- Parents are encouraged to contribute to group activities, using their particular interests and strengths.
- Children are encouraged to respect their local environment.
- Parents are kept informed of local amenities and special events.

The wider world

- Themes and topics chosen will introduce children to the wider world.
- Children's own experiences and interests are used as the basis for activities.
- Children are helped and encouraged to develop a sense of curiosity, awe and wonder.
- The immediate environment will reflect positively on a range of cultures.
- Activities and events will help the children to develop an understanding of their place in the wider world.