

The Willows Preschool

Outside play policy



Outside play and outings are a crucial aspect of the positive developmental environment of The Willows pre -school.

We have a dedicated outdoor play area and we operate a policy of an enabling environment-where children learn to use the outside areas in a variety of weather.

Children will be appropriately dressed as will the staff for each type of weather – coats should be worn as appropriate, wellies can be left at preschool if named. Parents should be aware of the potential risks involved with flip flops and similar styles of shoes when children are running around. Hats should be provided and left in drawers (named). Sun cream to be applied before they enter the preschool, then left (named) with staff for further application. The time and the longevity of use will be varied accordingly, weather dependent.

Active learning experiences outdoors is essential for young children. It gives the children opportunities to practice their developing skills , make them feel good and to explore their world. It is also important for the children’s physical, social, personal and emotional development. We believe that children should begin to take risks and face challenges outdoors. The Early Years Foundation Stage fully supports playing outdoors.

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

Aims

- We aim to use the outdoor learning environment for children’s learning throughout the year.
- We aim to provide a safe, stimulating outdoor environment where space is used effectively to enable children to explore a broad and balanced curriculum using a range of interesting resources suitable to their needs.
- Children will be able to choose to use the outdoor area freely during ‘freeplay’.

Procedures for outside play

- Before using the outdoor learning environment, a health and safety check is made i.e. the gate is locked and secured, fencing and boundary are in good repair, grounds checked for hazards.

- When there is summer sun all children and adults should be sun creamed and wear a hat. In winter they should wear appropriate clothing for the weather. (if children do not have the appropriate items we can offer spares but these are limited)
- Ensure that staff take turns to be inside and out
- Ensure good supervision of the L shaped space. Member of staff to supervise soft play area, member of staff to supervise role-play area, member of staff on indoor wet play area to help supervise veranda area (when doors are open) If only one member of staff outside to secure one area off.
- Ensure structured play is in shaded areas during summer sun
- To ensure children help tidy up after

The doors are open throughout much of the day. We close them at registration time, story time and food times.

Procedures for outings

- Parents give permission on the preschool registration form for children to be taken for walks within the North Bradley school grounds; any other outings need written permission for each outing.
- Staff ratio to children should always be at least
 - 1 Staff to 1 under 3's
 - 1 staff to 2 over 3's
- There should always be a senior member of staff during an outing around the school grounds i.e. Manager, deputy manager, senior play assistant, still ensuring high ratio.
- There should always be 2 senior members of staff during an outing away from the school, still ensuring high ratio.
- Within the school grounds staff should take with them any equipment needed for the planned activities at the beginning of the outing. Basic equipment such as tissues, mobile phone and first aid kit should be carried within the school grounds.
- For outings away from preschool the following should be taken
 - Camera
 - Wet wipes
 - Nappies

- Medication where necessary
- Drinks/food
- Mobile
- Tissues
- First aid
- Staff contact details
- Sun cream and hats

In the event of an emergency the immediate safety of the children come first, call any emergency services needed then contact the chairperson.

Senior staff to make the necessary contacts.