



Grow Learn Play Project CIC

Outdoor policy

We value outdoor play as a large part of children's physical development and as an intrinsic part of the EYFS curriculum. Outdoor play is essential for all aspects of a child's development, gaining experiences which enable them to develop intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically. The outdoor environment provides a rich context for language development and encourages positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle. The outdoor environment offers children the opportunity for holistic growth in an ever-changing environment, therefore we inspire children to access the outdoor environment in all weathers, (with appropriate clothing and adaptations)

The outdoor environment lends itself to instilling confidence in children as they can use hands on experience to develop their self-esteem in an organic environment, this then helps facilitate children to become resilient creative independent learners.

Our aim

Our aim is to explore both indoor and outdoor play providing a stimulating outdoor classroom, so children can explore and have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment. We encourage children to experiment with natural resources, create a sense of wonder about the world around them and learn about looking after themselves and others in an inclusive environment.

Outdoor play is an integral part of the routine of the day as physical development is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to become physical, active, happy and lead healthy lives, and is woven throughout our curriculum. We have worked hard to develop our outdoor space, providing different learning opportunities, from our mud kitchen to our large bike track and vast amount of outdoor space, to our onsite forest school offering children the opportunity to be independent creative learners. The outdoor layout is given lots of thought, with opportunities for children to use effective styles of learning, through a variety of equipment, including open-ended resources. It is important that children can modify the outdoor environment as they see fit.

We also take children out on walks so they can see and explore the community.

It is our policy to ensure:

- We are committed to maintaining a safe outdoor environment
- The outdoor areas are risk assessed daily – with any issues recorded and resolved to ensure the up most safety of the area for the children
- A thorough checklist is completed of the garden at the end of the day and any toys are checked for damage, then either fixed or removed.
- Outdoor play is age appropriate, regularly inspected and maintained.
- Toys and equipment are checked regularly for damage.
- Staff supervise children at all times during outdoor play and adhere to the correct ratios
- Children are dressed appropriately for all weathers. We provide full outdoor clothing for children and staff.
- Children access the garden in all weathers, except in extreme circumstances, if a parent feels their child is not well enough to take part in all of the setting's daily routine, we feel it is necessary for them to recover at home.
- Staff interact with the children when outside, to ensure supervision is maintained, and to encourage the children's interest and development.
- Children are encouraged to climb and balance independently; Adults offer encouragement while being aware of their safety.
- Children are encouraged to explore all areas or the outdoor space in a safe manor.