



8.12 Garden Policy

Policy statement

At Preschool we believe in the importance of outside play. We recognise how outside play is as important as inside play and facilitate this at all times by ensuring that when our door to the outside is open, we use the latch to stop the door slamming shut. We do however keep the door closed when we are tidying up at the end of a session, prior to carpet time or when an incident in the setting might require all children and staff to be together in one place.

Procedures

With all new starters we recognise we have to teach the children the rules regarding when the door must remain shut, and we support them to understand how to safely access the outdoor space.

We have an outside area at the Preschool:

- A fenced and gated garden area at the side of the Preschool which is accessed via the side door.
- The garden areas are risk assessed prior to any children using them.
- At all times there **must** be at least one practitioner in the garden area.
- When using the garden area, the practitioner **must** be able to remain in contact with the staff remaining in the Preschool.
- Staff must be mindful of the need for adequate deployment of staff to ensure there is a good line of sight across the garden area, with particular regard to area at the far end near the gate.
- If children are playing on the climbing frame in the garden, a member of staff must be in the area to minimise any potential risks. Any member of staff who needs to leave the garden must ensure they call another member of staff to replace them.
- All staff will ensure that before playing outside the children have suitable footwear (either shoes or wellies) and suitable clothing and outer wear depending on the weather. Children who go outside without suitable clothing or footwear will be redirected back to collect the appropriate clothing.
- In very cold weather, staff will not allow children to play in areas deemed a risk, due to being extremely wet or ice.
- In very warm weather, access to the garden will be limited to avoid the very hot midday period, but staff will remain alert to any variations in temperature which would necessitate the children being brought inside. Children will need to wear a sunhat and have their shoulders covered.

Baseline Version	18th April 2018		
Reviewed on:	Changes made:	Reviewed by:	Review date:
April 2019	No changes	Jacqui Avory Pre-school Manager	April 2020
April 2020	Minor formatting	Jacqui Avory Pre-school Manager	April 2021
March 2021	Reviewed – no changes	Jacqui Avory Pre-school Manager	March 2022
15 th March 2022	Reviewed – no changes	Jacqui Avory Pre-school Manager	March 2024
25 th April 2024	Reviewed – no changes	Jacqui Avory Pre-school Manager	April 2026
12 th April 2025	Reviewed – no changes	Sera Hagger Pre-school Administrator	April 2026
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