

Monty's Garden and Outside Learning Policy

Principles

Outdoor play is essential for all aspects of a child's development. It can provide children with experiences which enable them to develop intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically. In doing so it provides a rich context for the development of their language and encourages positive attitudes towards a healthy lifestyle. Outdoor play should be seen as an integral part of early years provision. At our nursery the aim of both indoor and outdoor play is to provide a stimulating environment for children's learning in all areas of the nursery curriculum. Close observation is essential in order to assess children's ability and to ensure appropriate planning and continuity for the outdoor curriculum. The provision and planning for outdoor play, just as indoor play, must reflect the diversity and richness of the experience and developing interests of the children. Some opportunities for learning can only happen outside.

Aims and objectives

- To enhance children's appreciation of the natural world and extend their learning experiences.
- To provide a healthy environment in which children can learn and develop.
- Group times are ideal to carry out in the outdoor area especially in good weather giving the children a different environment to express their feelings and energy.
- To allow children access to activities that promote appropriate areas of learning from the room garden planning, Room leaders must ensure that staff provide an activity, to carry out, to encourage children to participate and supervise.
- Space outdoors needs to be defined so that children know what activity takes place. This encourages the children to try different things rather than default to mainly running around or playing on the bikes and scooters.
- To implement free-flow throughout the day this allows the children to play in an open environment.
- To allow the children to experience different seasons, to enjoy the fresh air.
- To stimulate brain activity by using the senses and improve motor skills.
- To allow children who may not have access to an outdoor activity at home to enjoy the garden.
- Each garden area should reflect the curriculum for observations and the EYFS, also focussed and spontaneous observations should be carried out by staff.
- Staff will complete outdoor plans for the outdoor area to ensure all areas of development are available for children by planning and implementing activities.

- Staff are to interact with children at all times, supporting and encouraging their learning opportunities, staff must not stand around and chat with others, this is unacceptable.

Health and safety

- The garden will have an annual risk assessment check as well as daily risk assessments to be completed before the children arrive.
- Checks should be completed before children enter the garden and all areas at the end of the day must be cleared of resources and the resources stored in an appropriate area.
- Staff will encourage children to take part in risk taking activities with good supervision. Children should be encouraged to use the climbing frame and slide. Children under 3 years old should be supervised when coming on and off the apparatus.
- When coming in from the garden, staff will do a headcount using the room register.
- Staff will also use the photo board outside Kindie, displaying the photos of the children in the garden so they know who is in the garden at any one time.
- Whichever staff member leaves the garden last, will check known areas where children can conceal themselves. If you cannot do this yourself, ask a member of the management team.
- Sun cream should be applied 10-15 minutes before children are taken into the garden. Sun cream should be reapplied frequently (after 1 hour) in excessively hot weather or after being in water.
- Staff must provide shaded areas during the hottest part of the day and provide plenty of fresh water for children and encourage them to drink. This also applies to staff and adults.
- Sunhats should be provided by parents for each child and children should be encouraged not to share their hats.
- Staff and adults should also wear sun cream, sun hats or sunglasses as appropriate.
- During wet weather children should wear appropriate clothing such as waterproofs, wellington boots, hats, scarves and gloves.
- In the event of the fire alarm going off do not come back into the building, but exit to the nearest assembly point

This policy was adopted at a meeting during the month of January 2019. Kerry Allen (Nursery Manager) and Naomi Washer (Deputy Manager) were present.

(Policy to be reviewed during the Month of January 2020 spring term)