



EYFS Outdoor Play Policy

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Rationale:

“Being outdoors has a positive impact on children’s sense of well-being and helps all aspects of children’s development. Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors. It gives children first-hand contact with weather, seasons and the natural world. Outdoor environments offer children freedom to explore, use their senses, and be physically active and exuberant.”

DM (2012)

Purpose

To create an outdoor area which is stimulating, exciting and used throughout the year to support and challenge children’s development across all aspects of learning.

Guidelines

- Enable children daily ‘free-flow’ access to the outdoor area throughout the year, in all weathers; ensuring appropriate clothing is worn at all times.
- Include the outdoor area in planning; providing opportunities for children to develop the characteristics of effective learning through investigation, exploration, problem solving, physical development and being imaginative.
- Plan collaboratively at regular EYs team meetings to improve and enhance the outdoor learning environment.
- Ensure children’s safety through a daily risk assessment of the outdoor area and equipment.
- Support children to use equipment and tools safely and effectively.
- Encourage children to look after resources and respect their outdoor environment.
- Observe, record, assess and evaluate the learning that happens in the outdoor area.
- Ensure the outdoors offers children opportunities to develop their gross motor skills.
- Ensure that children enjoy energetic, noisy, messy and creative outdoor activities and the feeling of well-being that these bring.

- Enable children to develop an appreciation of natural beauty and a sense of wonder about the world both in school and around the local area.

Conclusion:

At Moorside we are committed to providing high quality outdoor provision which will support and challenge children's development across the seven areas of learning. Outdoor play will enable children to work with different resources and materials to those found inside, often on a larger scale and will provide rich opportunities for child initiated learning in a safe and exciting environment.

Appendix 1: EYFS Risk Assessment

Appendix 2: Outdoor Play Safety Checklist

EYFS Outdoor Play Risk Assessment

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Hazard	Control Measures	Risk	
Children leaving the EYFS through an open gate or door.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A named member of staff is responsible for checking the gate is locked once parents leave every morning. • There is always at least one member of EYFS staff supervising outdoor play when there is 'free-flow'. • The gates at either end of the playground must remain locked at all times whilst children are accessing outdoors. 	LOW	
Falling, tripping or slipping in the playground and other bumps and accidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is always at least one member of EYFS staff supervising outdoor play when there is 'free-flow'. • There is soft safety surfacing on half of the playground. • Outdoor play is restricted in poor weather because the safety surfacing and equipment can become slippery. Smaller groups can access parts of the outdoors under supervision. • A paediatric first aider is always available on school site and 3 members of the EYs staff are fully first aid trained (a first aid box is kept in each classroom and also in the outdoor shed). • Staff check that shoes are worn on the correct feet and secured correctly. • All accidents are reported according to the school first aid policy (attached). • There is a specific area for bikes to be used on the tarmac. • Staff to regularly ensure equipment that is not being used does not pose a tripping hazard where children are moving freely. 	MEDIUM	
Heavy equipment and wheelbarrows, bikes etc...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are taught how to use and move equipment safely. • There is always at least one member of EYFS staff supervising outdoor play when there is 'free-flow'. • A section of the playground is cordoned off for the use of bikes. 	MEDIUM	

Broken or damaged equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A daily check of equipment is carried out by a member of staff and a log is dated and signed. • Broken and damaged equipment is disposed of if it cannot be repaired. • An audit of equipment is carried out annually. 	LOW
Weather conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are asked to ensure their children come to school dressed appropriately to play out in all weathers (welcome handbook). • Children are asked to keep a pair of wellies in school during wet months. • School has some spare clothing available including coats, wellies, pumps, aprons etc. • Children will not be permitted to play out if they do not have appropriate clothing/footwear and if school are unable to provide any. • Children can access drinking water whenever they want. • Shade is available under the canopy area or indoors. • See sunscreen policy • Children will not have 'free-flow' during poor weather conditions, instead smaller groups can be taken out by an adult with restrictions to activities/access. • The site supervisor grits and clears a path during icy/snowy conditions and a decision would be made by SLT if children are safe to play out. 	MEDIUM
Litter, dirt on the floor, leaves and twigs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site supervisor does a check of the outdoor area each morning and clears any litter. • During the autumn term the site supervisor will regularly sweep the leaves. 	LOW
Planters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYs staff are responsible for maintaining the planters in the EYs playground. • These are positioned to limit any tripping hazards. • Teaching safe practices about gardening, e.g. touching/eating plants. 	LOW
Stagnant water and the mud kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the daily safety check in the morning staff will ensure there is no stagnant water collecting anywhere. • Children are reminded regularly not to drink any water other than the drinking water indoors. • The mud kitchen equipment should be cleaned at least every fortnight. 	LOW
Glass windows and trapping fingers in doors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 'free flow' play the doors remain secured open for children to come and go as they please. • Staff are conscientious when opening and closing doors. • Children are taught to use play equipment safely and any throwing/kicking games are not permitted near the glass windows. 	LOW
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children will be taught and encouraged to wash their hands regularly; especially at various times of the day such as before snack, before lunch and after using the toilet. • Water and sand resources should be cleaned every term (recommended to use a Milton solution). • Play dough should be replaced at least every fortnight. 	LOW



Outdoor Play Safety Checklist

W/C:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Gates locked					
Broken Glass					
Branches & twigs					
Boulders & stones					
Animal faeces					
Needles					
Litter					
Broken equipment					
Floor surface					
Tyres					
Shed door secured					
Shedlets Safe					
Staff Initials					
Time					