

Outdoor Play Policy



At Hurst Lodge we aim to provide children with opportunities for outdoor play which promotes the development of confidence, co-ordination, well being and strength.

'Playing outside provides opportunities for children to use all their senses, to experience wonder and enchantment, to work on a larger scale and to enjoy a greater sense of freedom and independence'

Objectives:

1. To provide a safe and supportive outdoor environment which encourages children to participate in physical activities providing adventure, personal challenge and enjoyment.
2. To promote social skills such as sharing, turn taking, decision making, co-operation with others, negotiation and fairness.
3. To encourage children to initiate and develop ideas for themselves
4. To make connections and link areas of learning
5. To practice and build ideas, concepts and skills
6. To have time and space to explore in depth and make sense of the world around them.
7. To build skills of control and co-ordination within gross and fine motor activities.

We will provide a planned programme of outdoor play activities supporting children's cognitive, emotional, physical and social needs. Emphasis will be placed on using the outdoor environment as a valuable resource to stimulate and challenge the children as they play and learn. There will be opportunities for the children to enjoy fresh air, develop an awareness of space, to use all their senses and to feel the benefits of nature on their mind and emotions.

Safety and Security

- A visual daily risk assessment of the outdoor play area will be conducted before the children go out to play.

Reviewed 2009
Next Review Spring 2011

- A thorough written risk assessment will be carried out before the children go to our wooded area.
- A set of rules for outdoors will be devised through discussion with the children and staff
- We will have access to a first aid box
- We will ensure that the children are adequately clothed for current weather
- Staff will have a means of contacting the school at all times
- There will be an agreed procedure for the application of sun cream
- Staff/child ratios to be maintained outside

Photographic evidence will be kept and assessment procedures will be followed.