



## Outdoor Play Policy



nippers aims to enable all children to use the nursery garden as a context for learning throughout the year.

### Education

- The garden will be included in the settings short, medium- and long-term planning.
- Staff will use national & local guidelines when writing forward plans.
- Staff observations & assessments will be included in short term plans & weekly activities when appropriate.
- Photographs will be used as a form of evidence for observations.
- The equal opportunities policy will always apply.
- Activities will promote gross motor skills.
- Children will have daily access to the garden
- Space will be used effectively & safely offering children a stimulating opportunity to explore a broad and balanced curriculum.
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- The garden will offer children the opportunity to investigate, explore, problem solve & use imagination & creativity.
- We will encourage independence & responsibility.
- Each child will be given the opportunity to participate at their own level.
- We will promote cooperative work with peers.
- Children will be given the chance to relax, enjoy and have fun outdoors.
- The children will be encouraged to care for & respect the outside environment & living things.

### Weather

- In the event of warmer weather, indoors will be taken out so that the staff & children can learn & enjoy the indoor experiences in the fresh air.
- Warm weather plans will be adhered to.
- The sun protection policy will always apply
- Children will be encouraged to wear correct clothing, to keep body temperatures normal.
- Children will be protected from extreme weather.
- Children will wear the waterproof suits provided during wet days.

### Safety

- The garden will be checked daily before opened to the children for debris, litter, any kind of tampering, animal faeces etc.
- Risk assessments will be ongoing. The policy & procedure will be reviewed annually unless reflective practice informs us otherwise.
- Children will be supervised at all times & correct ratios will be adhered to.
- Equipment will be checked before & after use. Sanitisation will take place where appropriate.
- Support will be given to children to ensure safe use of tools & equipment.
- All plants growing in the play area will be harmless & regularly maintained.
- Boundaries & gates will be secure, maintained to good repair.
- Children will be encouraged to be aware of their own needs & safety & the needs & safety of others.

Reviewed June 25 – K.Addyman

Review March 26

# Play Policy

Nippers takes responsibility to ensure that children will play freely and enjoy their free time. We recognise that play is an essential part of every child's life. Children at nippers will be able to explore the world around them which is vital to their development. Play is crucial for emotional, physical & spiritual growth, for educational development & and social & behavioural skills. The aim of this policy is to promote the importance of play for all children & and to enable equal access of good quality play to every child that attends nippers.

During our play sessions we will:

- Enable all children to have access to play indoors & outdoors.
- Promote and plan play opportunities in consultation with the children.
- Ensure that all children are valued & respected so that they can play free from racial or other types of discrimination & abuse.
- Deploy staff appropriately so that children can receive correct adult time during child centred play
- Provide opportunities that challenge & stimulate, enable risk taking but does not threaten their survival or wellbeing.
- Encourage children's own ideas & respect their own way of problem solving.
- Provide a wide range of opportunities that children can experience at their own pace of learning and through their own learning style.
- Support the development of play opportunities to ensure that they are safe, stimulating & appropriate for children's stages of development.

Learning through play - Whilst children are playing, we will:

- Help children to distinguish between right & wrong by setting consistent fair boundaries, helping them respect feelings of others, reassuring them that strong feelings are acceptable & the effect their actions have on others & help them develop their team work & cooperation skills.
- Take every opportunity to extend individual children's communication skills in speaking & listening.
- Encourage the children to make choices and decisions during free play & encourage care and responsibility of our resources.
- We will encourage creative and imaginative development through a range of activities such as role play, small world play, mark making, craft making & modelling, singing & dancing, music and musical instruments.
- Children will be encouraged to make choices - staff will take opportunities to extend children's thinking and knowledge allowing those choices to come to fruition.
- Promote activities that require problem solving & investigation, letting individuals explore in their own way.
- Develop mathematical skills through play, games, as well as everyday routines.
- Ensure all age groups are able to mix during group sessions in all areas.

## Organisation

- Staff will follow daily procedures to ensure that designated play areas are ready for access and resources are available.
- Wherever possible resources will be accessible to all children to enable freedom of choice.
- Resources will be labelled so that children can seek out and return equipment easily & responsibly.
- We will organise equipment so that space is available for children to enjoy physical play.
- Quiet areas will be allocated for children to relax & collect their thoughts.
- Resources will be rotated to keep play opportunities refreshing

## Recording

- Staff will observe the children through play and record individual findings using varied means – Family/planner notes.
- Staff will use children's ideas to inform planning and children will be able to extend their ideas to provide further activities.

## Parents

- Parents will be informed of activities daily by displaying details on the whiteboard.
- Parents can access the nippers nursery facebook page to see the activities that are going on in the day.
- Parent shares will be sent to parents throughout the week through Family to share pictures and information about what their child/ren are experiencing.
- Staff will be deployed so that time is allocated to chat on a daily basis with parents.
- Information days will take place so that parents & families can join in with play.

Reviewed June 25 – K.Addyman

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