



## **Child care practice**

### **CCP2 Outdoor Play**

#### **Policy Statement**

##### **Our setting aims to:**

- provide high quality care and education for children below statutory school age;
- work in partnership with parents to help children to learn and develop;
- go outside to play whatever the weather.

We aim to ensure that each child:

- is in a safe and stimulating environment;
- has the opportunity to play outside and develop deep level learning;
- is given generous care and attention, because of our ratio of qualified staff to children;
- has the chance to join with other children and adults to live, play, work and learn together;
- is helped to take forward their learning and development by being helped to build on what they already know and can do;
- has a personal key person who makes sure each child makes satisfying progress;
- is in a setting that sees parents as partners in helping each child to learn and develop; and
- is in a setting in which parents help to shape the service it offers.

##### *How we plan for development and learning outside*

We have access to the patio area all year and provide stimulating equipment and resources to ensure an all-round learning experience. We offer opportunities for the children to plant, grow and care for flowers, fruits and vegetables throughout the year as well as providing plants that will attract bees, butterflies and other wildlife for our children to observe and enjoy.

We have access to the grass garden area for most of the time, sharing it with Families and Tots during some of the week. To protect the garden and its shared usage with the church we will use the grass area only when it is not muddy. At other times this space will be used for development in all areas of learning that the children choose independently as well as through large group games.



### *Roles and Responsibilities*

The outside area will be adequately supervised according to what we have in the area.

All gates and fences are childproof, safe, and secure.

Areas are checked daily to make sure animal droppings, litter, glass etc. is removed. Staff wear rubber gloves to do this.

Safety mats are provided under climbing equipment, even when on grass

Broken climbing equipment or outdoor toys are removed and reported to the setting manager.

Children are always supervised within ratios outside.

Children are supervised on climbing equipment, especially younger children.

### *Observation and Assessment*

Observations will be made on individual children to build up a holistic picture of each child's development.

### *Parents*

Parents are informed of our commitment to access outside provision and asked to provide suitable outdoor clothing. We do keep a small selection of coats, hats, scarves and gloves should a parent forget to supply these items. We have a selection of waterproof outfits as well as wellington boots to enable the children to go out in wet weather.

## **Health and Safety**

### *Weather*

Parents are asked to protect their children with sun cream in hot weather and we provide sun hats. In hot weather children will be reminded to drink water regularly and the time allowed in the sun will be monitored. Shade will be available at all times in the form of a canopy on the patio.

In cold weather parents are asked to provide suitable clothing and when using the outdoor area in cold conditions the time allowed will be monitored to ensure the children do not become cold. Physical activities will be provided to keep children mobile and warm.

Should the conditions be extreme then we will not go outside i.e. heavy winds, thunderstorms, etc.



### **Off-site experiences**

A full pre-school trip is organised at least once per term.

We also visit the local community regularly with trips to the post box, shops, and the library or outside to experience the sights, sound and textures of the various seasons.

Consent is obtained in the form of a signed agreement from the parent/carer. Risk assessments are carried out prior to setting visits taking place. When leaving the grounds we take the following equipment:

- Enrolment form of children without parents;
- First Aid box;
- Changes of clothes;
- Nappies and wet wipes;
- Snacks and water.
- Risk assessment.
- A mobile telephone

On trips where parents do not accompany us there is a ratio of 1 adult to 1 child, with at least 2 adults on each trip; if the children are considered well behaved then the ratio will be 1 adult to 2 children, with at least 2 adults on the trip.

### **Equality and Inclusion**

All children of all abilities have the opportunity to experience our outings with a higher ratio of adults if considered necessary.

Should a family not be able to afford a trip then this policy asks parents/carers to tell the manager or supervisor in order for them to inquire with the Trustees if financial help is available.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	Little Fishes Pre-School
Held on	<hr/> 20/9/11
Date to be reviewed	<hr/> Reviewed: Summer 2022
	Next Review: Summer Term
	2024
Signed on behalf of the management committee	<hr/> Maggie Mann – Chair
	Tracy Parkins - Manager
	<hr/>