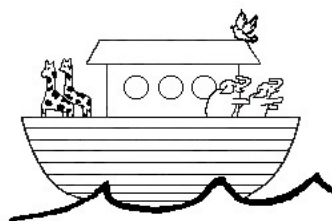


Noah's Ark



Pre-School

8.11 OUTDOOR PLAY AND HOW WE PROTECT CHILDREN FROM THE WEATHER POLICY

Policy Statement

We believe that active learning outdoors is essential for young children. The outdoors can provide a scale and freedom for a type of play that is difficult to replicate indoors. Children are unique individuals eager to make sense of their world, to develop relationships and extend their skills. The outdoor environment provides an ideal setting to allow children to develop this curiosity and be active in their learning and develop a sense of physical, mental and emotional well-being, through participation in a range of experiences and spontaneous social interactions.

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating outdoor environment where space is used effectively to enable children to explore a broad balanced curriculum using a range of interesting resources suitable to their individual needs. We aim to provide free-flow outside play every session and all areas of provision are reflected taking into account the children's interests.

Noah's Ark Pre-School will provide adequate equipment to ensure that children are both safe and healthy whatever the weather to enable the children to play and enjoy the inside and outside environment / facilities on a daily basis.

Procedures

In order to achieve this aim we:

- use the garden as a natural resource for learning
- provide large equipment for extended physical play
- include the outside area when planning

ensure that the area offers children the opportunity to investigate and explore, problem solve, use their imagination and creativity

cover the seven areas of learning

ensure the outdoors offers children the opportunities to develop their large motor skills

ensure that children enjoy activities outside and the feeling of well-being that being outside brings

observe, assess and record the learning that happens outside

give children the opportunity to have ownership of the garden by letting them be part of the planning help children to care for the outside environment through the context of the garden area enable children to work on their own and with others enable the children to develop an appreciation of natural beauty and a sense of wonder about the world respect the outdoor environment and to care for living things enable children to manage and use the space and freedom afforded by the outside environment give children the opportunity to relax, enjoy and have fun outdoors use tools safely and effectively and to follow safety rules take into account children's interests and be responsive to their learning experience allow children to expand on their interests, make choices and have freedom to explore this stimulating area to encourage children to be independent and learn to tidy the equipment after use to experience a safe outdoor play area that is supervised to provide a garden area and a hard surface area, providing shade from the sun give children the knowledge of all types of weather with appropriate clothing to extend their experiences to extend indoors play outside give children opportunities to mark, make, be creative and express themselves outside.

How we protect children from the weather

We ask parents to put sunscreen on their children before they come to session. We ask parents to provide a named sunhat but Noah's Ark Pre-School also have spare hats to lend children should they attend without one we ask parents to provide a bag with extra / spare clothing in should they become wet or dirty from play, Noah's Ark Pre-School also have spare clothes to lend children should they attend without spare clothes Staff will not let children access the outside area if they do not have the appropriate clothing for the weather condition on that day

Staff will where possible try to find suitable clothing for the children if they turn up to session with inappropriate clothing

In the event of heavy rainfall children will be brought inside until the weather brightens

If the weather is drizzly / wet children will still be able to access the outside area but only if they have a rain coat and wellies; Noah's Ark Pre-School will provide spare rain coats and wellies if possible to lend children who attend without them

Noah's Ark Pre-School have purchased awnings that protect a large area of the outside green area in hot sunny weather

We make sure that children have adequate access to fresh drinking water and encourage children to drink regularly to stop dehydration

The building is maintained to a comfortable temperature and checked with thermometers, if the temperatures reach uncomfortably too hot or too cold then the decision will be made with the Chairperson to whether to close for the session / day

We teach children about being healthy including about the weather and appropriate clothing

This policy was adopted by

Noah's Ark Pre School

On

1st May 2019

Date to be reviewed

1st May 2020

Signed on behalf of the provider



Name of signatory

Charlotte Turpin

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)

Chairperson