



Outdoor Play Policy

HSCS: 1.25, 1.32, 2.24, 2.25, 2.27, 3.20, 3.21, 3.25, 5.1, 5.11, 5.16, 5.17, 5.20

At **Cherrytrees Childrens' Nurseries Ltd** we are committed to the importance of daily outdoor play and the physical development of all children regardless of their age and stage of development. We provide outdoor play in all weathers. Where possible and appropriate, we make outdoor activities accessible to children with learning difficulties and disabilities to ensuring inclusive use of the outdoor area.

We recognise that children need regular access to outdoor play in order to keep fit and healthy, develop their large and fine motor skills, experience learning in a natural environment and access sunlight in order to absorb vitamin D more effectively.

The outdoor areas, both within the nursery grounds and in the local community have a wealth of experiences and resources, which help children to develop in a variety of ways, including independence, exploration and investigative skills, risk taking and self-esteem, all of which support children to develop skills now and for the future.

We take reasonable steps to ensure all areas are safe and secure through close supervision and the use of robust risk assessments and safety checks. Where possible and appropriate, we plan and encourage play that helps children understand and manage risks. This type of play allows children to explore and find their own boundaries in a safe environment with supportive early learning and childcare practitioners. Staff are informed of the importance of safety procedures and are trained appropriately to ensure these procedures are followed effectively.

We ensure outdoor play is supervised adequately and we have robust safety checks in place, including regular head counts.

We obtain parental permission before any child leaves the nursery during the day. This includes short outings into the local community. There is more information in the Visits and Outings Policy.

We plan all outdoor play opportunities and outings to complement the indoor activities, providing children with purposeful activities that support and follow individual interests. There is a balance of both adult-led and child-initiated opportunities to enable children to learn and practice new skills, knowledge and behaviours. Where possible, and in line with the children's needs, we will also often have snacks and meals outdoors and some children will sleep outdoors (see Sleep policy).

Where activities take place away from the setting (e.g. in the local wood) then a nursery mobile phone and first aid kit will be taken to ensure the safety of children at all times. A trained paediatric first aider will be present when children are away from the main setting.

We use this policy alongside the following policies to ensure the safety and welfare of children throughout their time outside:

- Health and safety
- Managing extreme weather
- Caring for babies and toddlers



- Lost child policy
- Parents and carers as partners
- Supervision of children
- Child Protection
- Outings.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>Feb 25</i>	<i>S Bennet</i>	<i>Feb 26</i>

Links to UNCRC Articles: 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 23, 24, 28, 29, 31