

At The Teddy Bears Inn Day nursery we are committed to the importance of daily outdoor play and physical development in all children regardless of their age and stage of development. All activities will be made accessible to children with learning difficulties and disabilities to ensure all children are able to freely and independently use the outdoor area and physical play opportunities to best effect.

Children need regular access to outdoor play in order to develop their large and small muscles, experience an environment that is different to the inside of the nursery and more importantly 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 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 for now and the future.

The nursery will ensure all areas are safe and secure through close supervision and the use of robust risk assessments and safety checks. Staff are informed of the importance of these procedures and are trained appropriately to ensure these procedures are followed effectively.

Parents' permission will be sought before any child leaves the nursery during the day; this includes short outings into the local community. Please refer to the visits and outings policy for further information on this process.

All outdoor play opportunities and outings will complement the indoor activities and provide children with both adult-led and child-initiated opportunities to enable children to learn and practice new skills, knowledge and behaviours.

Ideally free flow will be offered see appendix 1

The nursery will use this policy alongside the following policies to ensure the safety and welfare of children throughout their time outside.

- Health and Safety
- Sun Care
- Caring for Babies and Toddlers
- Lost Child Policy
- Parents and Carers as Partners
- Supervision of Children
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Outings.

Appendix one

Guidelines for outside play and free flow play

- There must be a representative from each age group outside.
- The children must be supported and supervised at all times
- Staff should be constantly watching and interacting with their age group.
- A child's key person should be called if their key children are upset, have soiled or had any other form of accidents
- If a child's key person is unavailable then the child's key buddy should deal with the child.
- Staff should be spread out in the garden not standing next to each other.
- Talking to parents is an important part of a practitioner's day. This should not impede on the supervision of the children. Conversations should be facing into the garden. If a practitioner is unable to maintain supervision they should get another member of staff to cover or advise the parent to speak to a manager in the building.
- Outside provisions are as important as inside provisions, the same support to children during this time should be given For example paintings to be praised, labelled and displayed.
- Free flow should be constantly available to the children. The only exception to this would be if the nursery manager states it is unsafe to do so for example extreme weather or when supervision would be impeded either in or out
- Risk assessment should be carried out on a regular basis and at least once a day.
- Just like inside resources the curriculum should be delivered through a balance of adult initiated, child led and supported play learning opportunities.