



Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO – Outdoor Play Policy

School Lane, Thriplow, Royston, Herts, SG8 7RH

CIO Charity Number 1162435

Tel: 01763 208055 Email: ladybirdplaygrouphthriplow@gmail.com Web: www.ladybird-playgroup.co.uk

Outdoor Play Policy

Statement of intent

Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO believes opportunities for indoor and outdoor play are crucial to providing the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for children from birth to five years, a varied play experience will be provided outdoors as well as indoors. Fresh air and exercise are important factors for promoting good physical health. Outdoor play will be encouraged in all weathers, with the appropriate care taken to protect the children. Adults should be actively involved with the children in their games and activities and should not be solely in a supervisory role. Where appropriate, written observations of children in deep, meaningful play should be carried out.

Aim

We endeavour to create an atmosphere where children can learn to take risks in a controlled environment. The children have access to manufactured equipment alongside open-ended resources in order to develop their imagination, solve problems and learn about the world around them.

The safety of the children accessing the outdoor area is crucial; a full risk assessment will be carried out and reviewed regularly. Although the principles of continuous outdoor play will be adopted, the safety and well-being of the children will always be prioritised and outside play may be temporarily restricted if this compromises children's safety.

Procedure:

- Prior to any child accessing the outdoors area a member of staff will complete a full daily risk assessment of the area; ensure that all external gates are secured and check that all the equipment is in a good state of repair, removing any potential hazards where necessary.
- The door to the outdoor area will be secured open when the children are in free flow to minimise any accidents with children trying to open and close doors.
- When children are independently free flowing from indoors to outdoors, health and safety must be considered as a priority.
- Children must be supervised at all times.
- Should a child have an accident, a member of staff will take the child to the outer door and call for assistance of the first aider present.
- If the first aider on duty is outdoors, then a staff member from indoors will change places to allow the first aider to deal with the accident.
- Due to children independently accessing the outdoor space staff need to be vigilant to ensure the children's whereabouts at all times.
- At the end of the session of outdoor play staff must perform a head count against the register and check all areas where the children may 'hide', before returning indoors and securing the door.



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- Should a fire break out in the playgroup building whilst the children are playing outside, our fire plan includes a safe collection point on the far-left hand side of the playground, which is known to the children and the staff. Further details of the fire policy are set out in the Fire Safety and Emergency Evacuation Policy.
- To enable children to fully experience outdoor play opportunities, parents are requested not to send their children to playgroup in expensive clothing, or Crocs and open toe sandals, that could restrict play opportunities that children are able to participate in.

The following factors will be taken into consideration in different weather conditions:

Hot Weather

- Children will be encouraged to play outdoors. However, a risk assessment will be taken to determine whether it is in the interest of children's safety to restrict outdoor play at the hottest part of the day.
- Children will be encouraged to drink water regularly.
- Children will wear sun hats and sun cream will be applied before children play out in hot weather.
- Parents are requested to ensure their own child has had sun cream applied in hot weather before they attend a session.
- The setting will provide sun cream for the parents to apply to their own child (if they have not remembered) or staff will apply sun cream to the children no less than 30 minutes prior to going outdoors.

Wet Weather

- Parents are requested to ensure their own child dresses appropriately for the weather conditions.
- Some suitable waterproof clothing i.e. splash suits and wellingtons are provided by the setting to enable the children to be able to experience splashing in puddles, playing in the rain or snow (if parents have these, then we ask them to please bring or let their child wear them as the setting does not have enough for every child).

Cold Weather

- Children will be dressed appropriately with hats and gloves before playing outside.
- The playgroup setting has a small bank of 'spare' additional clothing that can be used in an emergency to ensure the children can continue to access the outdoor space.



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Staff Ratios

- At all times staff to child ratios (both indoors and outdoors) will be maintained within Ofsted and the Early Years framework guidance. Should ratios change in the event of unforeseen incidents the leader in charge will ensure ratios are maintained by collecting all staff and children together either indoors or outdoors at the leader's discretion.

This policy and procedure was adopted by Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO	
Held on (date)	
Signed on behalf of the Ladybird Playgroup Committee	
Role of signatory (e.g. chairperson etc.)	
Signed by Playgroup Leader/Deputy	
Name of Playgroup Leader/Deputy	