

# Health and Safety



## Outdoor Policy

### Incorporating Forest Childcare

### Policy statement

At Rudgwick Pre-school we strongly believe that being outdoors has a positive impact on children’s sense of well-being and helps all aspects of children’s development. (EYFS Enabling Environments)

We believe outdoor play is an integral part of a child’s learning and development and, as recommended by the EYFS, we operate a free-flow system where children can move freely between our indoor and outdoor spaces. Our aim is to provide children with enriching outdoor play experiences in line with the five principles of Forest Childcare (these can be found in the relevant of our website) in a safe and secure environment.

### EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.3 Keeping safe 1.4 Health and well-being	2.2 Parents as partners	3.3 The learning environment 3.4 The wider environment	4.1 Playing and exploring 4.2 Active Learning

### Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and Exploring Engagement	Active Learning Motivation	Creating and Thinking Critically - Thinking
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### Procedures

#### Health and Safety

- Risk assessments of the equipment and environment are undertaken and regularly reviewed. Staff ensure the outdoor play area is safe and secure. A regular health and safety inspection of the area is conducted along with checking gates are secure to prevent children leaving the area and unauthorised persons from entering
- All the outside equipment is suitable for the children’s ages, needs and abilities.
- The outside environment is checked every day for litter, faeces and any objects that may be harmful.

#### Staffing

- Children playing outside are always supervised by staff: usually within sight *and* hearing of staff and always within sight *or* hearing.
- Our outside adult: child ratios are set according to the individual needs of the children playing outside.

## **Activities**

- In our outdoor environment, children have opportunities to explore all areas of learning and development identified by the EYFS through a balance of planned adult-led activities and their own child-initiated play.
- Children are encouraged and supported by staff to take challenges and to start to assess risks for themselves.
- The children's interests are followed and supported through our portable continuous provision which enables children to move their play between the indoor and outdoor environments.
- Staff observe and record children's learning and play interests to inform our planning and ensure that we are meeting their individual needs.

## **All weathers**

As much as we can, we encourage all children to play outside on a daily basis. We therefore request you provide the following named items; a kit list is attached to all children's bags;

- Wellies
- Waterproof coat or rain Mac
- Sun hats
- Spare Clothes
- Children should be appropriately dressed for all weather conditions to allow for a more contented outdoor play time.

## **Sun Safe Award - Reviewed Annually in April**

- Appropriate shade and cover is provided to allow children refuge from some weather conditions.
- Water to drink is always available in the outdoor play area along with access to toilets at all times.
- The need for sun protection is discussed interactively with the children.
- Parents and carers are informed of the importance of sun protection through newsletters and is displayed within the relevant section of our website.
- Shaded areas are made full use of when activities are planned outside.
- A stock of spare hats are available for children who forget their own

As outdoor play is part of our sessional routine it is necessary that all children have their sun cream applied prior to arrival at Pre-School at the setting for 9.00am, we suggest the once a day type to ensure they are protected for the whole day.

We keep suncream in case of emergency

**All children should be dressed sensibly in hot weather to cover sensitive areas, shoulders must always be covered.**

## **Legal framework**

- Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)
- Statutory Framework for the EYFS (2012)

## **Further guidance**

- Five steps to Risk Assessment (HSE 2006)

- Sun Safe Award - [www.sunsafenurseries.co.uk](http://www.sunsafenurseries.co.uk)
- The Five Principles of Forest Childcare  
-<http://www.kidstogo.co.uk/childminders/forestchildcare.html#Principie>

This policy was adopted at a meeting Rudgwick Pre-school

of

Held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Date to be reviewed 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Signed on behalf of the management  
committee *William Baldwin*

Name of signatory William Baldwin

Role of signatory Chairperson