

## Outdoor Play Policy

England: EYFS
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**1.1** At Muddy Boots Nursery School LTD we are committed to the importance of daily outdoor play and physical development in all children regardless of their age and stage of development and in all weathers. Where possible and appropriate activities will be made accessible to children with learning difficulties and disabilities to ensure inclusive access to the outdoor area.

**1.2** 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.

**1.3** 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 for now and the future.

**1.4** The nursery will ensure all areas are safe and secure through close supervision and the use of robust risk assessments and safety checks. Where possible and appropriate play that helps children understand and manage risks will be planned and encouraged. This type of play allows children to explore and find their own boundaries in a safe environment with supportive practitioners. Staff are informed of the importance of safety procedures and are trained appropriately to ensure these procedures are followed effectively.

**1.5** Parents' permission will be sought before any child leaves the nursery (this permission is gained when the child starts with us). This includes short outings into the local community. Please refer to the visits and outings policy for further information on this procedure.

**1.6** All outdoor play opportunities and outings will complement the indoor activities and provide children with purposefully planned activities that support and follow individual children's interests. There is a balance of both adult-led and child-initiated opportunities to enable children to learn and practise new skills, knowledge and behaviours.

**1.7** 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
- Visits and outings.