

Outdoor/Garden Policy

Children require a range of outdoor, as well as indoor, experiences to promote their learning and development.

The nursery aims to use outdoor provision as much as possible in order to give children access to a rich, combined indoor and outdoor learning experience. Our garden is split into four areas, one area for the sunshine room children, one area for the caterpillar room children and a third area for the butterfly room children. Resources available in all areas are age and developmentally appropriate and access to larger equipment is made available with adult support. We promote the use of 'loose parts play', whereby children are able to select a wide range of natural resources, such as, wooden planks, logs, sticks, rope, fabrics, crates, bark chippings, sand etc. for child-led play purposes.

The fourth outdoor area we have available to children is our nature garden. Children absolutely love this space, where they can freely discover and explore nature, grow, prepare and taste fruit and vegetables, bird watch, observe bugs in our bug hotel, dig soil, explore our pond area and play endlessly in our mud kitchen.

Outdoor play is experienced daily, for long and often frequent periods of the day. Children may be exposed to conditions that we regard as 'less favourable' outside, for example, rain, wind or snow, to enable them to experience variations in weather and differences in their outdoor environment. Children will access the garden throughout the year, during all seasons. We will only not access the garden if there is extremely heavy rain or other stormy conditions.

We hope to continuously build upon our outdoor equipment to promote further learning opportunities in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage. The nursery endeavours to meet the individual needs, interests, abilities and aspirations of all the children in our care through good quality indoor and outdoor equipment.

Please refer to our Health and Safety Policy for information around safety issues in the outdoor area. Please also refer to our outings policy for more details on other outdoor experiences that children will experience.