

Outdoor Policy

Policy statement

A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right, and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

(Statutory framework for the EYFS, 2007)

The EYFS makes it clear that the outdoor environment is as valued and important for young children's well being and development as the indoor 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	2.3 supporting Learning	3.3 The learning environment 3.4 The wider context	4.1 play and exploration 4.2 Active learning

Procedures

Requirements of the EYFS framework

Under the Childcare Act 2006, from September 2008 all early years providers will have a legal responsibility to ensure that their provision meets welfare, learning and development requirements that include:

- outdoor and indoor premises and equipment that are organised in a way that meets the needs of children
- adequate space to give scope for free movement and well-spread activities (this is much easier to achieve indoors when the outdoors forms half of the overall environment)
- an expected norm that children have access to an outdoor play area: rain does not stop outdoor play. In provision where outdoor play space cannot be provided, Ofsted inspectors will want to see that children are taken out of the premises on a daily basis
- outdoor spaces and resources, which are safe and suitable for their purpose
- good risk management processes, taking all reasonable steps to ensure that hazards to children are kept to a minimum. This does not mean removing appropriate experiences that have high developmental benefit; it does mean finding ways for children to engage in them without undue risk of harm
- all practitioners having a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities: this will include being clear, positive and confident about their roles in supporting good-quality play outdoors
- planning and organisational systems that ensure every child receives an enjoyable and challenging learning and development experience, tailored to meet individual needs and delivered through a balance of adult-led and freely chosen or child-initiated indoor and outdoor play activities.

We aim to:

- ensure the outdoors offers children opportunities to develop their large motor skills
- ensure that children enjoy energetic activity outdoors and the feeling of wellbeing that it brings
- give children opportunity to plan and have ownership for their learning
- help children to care for the outside environment through the context of the garden

- enable children to work on their own and with others
- enable children to develop an appreciation of natural beauty and a sense of wonder about the world
- respect the outdoor environment and to care for living things
- give children the opportunity to be relax, enjoy and have fun outdoors
- use tools safely and effectively and to follow nursery safety rules.

Method

The staff will:

- facilitate access to the outdoors on a daily basis through discussion and staff meetings, planning and mutual agreement
- organise and provide necessary resources as appropriate, for example clothing, footwear, tools, etc.
- encourage children to use a variety of natural resources
- There is continuous outdoor planning with six areas of learning on the planning board, enhancements will be added on to the weekly planning weekly.

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Risk Assessment procedure

- An outdoor risk assessment will be carried out daily by a member of staff in the morning and afternoon.

Signed on behalf of The Olive Garden Nursery

Issue 1: New policy July 2009

Issue 2: Amendment October 2010

Issue 3: Added vision statement and planning, November 2011

Issue 3: Reviewed October 2012

Issue 3: Reviewed October 2013

Issue 4; Reviewed august 2014

Issue 5: Amended June 2015

Issue 5: Reviewed September 2016

Issue 6: Amended August 2017

Reviewed October 2019

Issue 7: Amended January 2021

Issue7: Amended September 2023