



Outdoor and Sun Safe Policy

Statement of intent

We value outdoor play as an intrinsic part of the curriculum. By ensuring outdoor play is an integral part of the preschool routine we consciously seek to transmit a positive attitude to the outdoors and enrich the child's understanding of the world around him/her.

Active learning experiences outdoors, are essential for young children. They give children opportunities to practice their developing skills, make them feel good and to explore their world. It is also important for children's physical, mental and emotional development.

We believe that children should begin to take risks and face challenges outdoors. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) fully supports playing outdoors.

Aim

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating outdoor environment where space is used effectively to enable children to explore a broad and balanced curriculum using a range of interesting resources suitable to their individual needs. We ensure, where possible that the children have free use of the outdoor area as a context for learning throughout the year.

Method

The outdoor area will be resourced and available for the children to access on a daily basis.

Children will be able to choose to use the outdoor area freely during the day, when staff/child numbers permit and focused activities may be planned for outdoors.

Children will need to have appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather in order to enable them to fully access the activities outside.

This will include, but are not restricted to:

- Waterproof coat
- Hat and gloves
- Shoes/Welly boots appropriate for playing out in
- Sun protection cream and a hat

We believe that access to the outdoor area is beneficial to the health and wellbeing of young children. As a consequence we do not want to restrict a child's choice to play and learn outdoors.

Staff will make observations to inform future planning when working with children in the outdoor area.

Safety

Safety will always be of prime consideration and the following measures will be taken to minimise the risks of playing outside –

- A member of staff will inspect the area before taking the children outside and complete a tick list risk assessment.
- Children are supervised at all times.
- Whenever children are using the outdoor area we will ensure it is appropriately staffed using the same ratios of adults to children as apply indoors. If a member of staff has to leave their designated position/area they should advise another member of staff that they are doing so.
- We have a high adult/child ratio and all staff on duty will be involved in the supervision of children during outside play.
- Children play at their own level on the play equipment, closely watched by the staff who will give assistance if a child gets into difficulty.
- Staff should be vigilant for the presence of unauthorised persons and follow procedures set in the '*Visitor and Intruder Policy*'
- If a child should go missing during outdoor play staff should alert the preschool leader or deputy and follow procedures set in the '*Missing Child Policy*'

Sun Safe

At The Spring Montessori we understand that young skin is delicate and very easily damaged by the sun and that this damage may develop into skin cancer in later life. All children, no matter whether they tan easily or not, should be protected from the sun, and sunscreen should be applied generously and regularly as it can easily be washed, rubbed or sweated off.

At the start of each summer term parents are reminded by, newsletter/email/ MMC notification/ communication book, to send their child in with a hat, and named sun cream and that they should apply sunscreen to their child in the mornings as necessary.

When applying sun cream to children more than one adult will be present and staff will only apply to exposed skin.

The following procedures and documentation in relation to Outdoor and Sun Safe Policy are in place:

- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2012, 2014
 - *Section 1: The learning and Development requirements*
 - *Section3: The Safeguard and Welfare Requirements*

Preschool Policies

- Child going missing
- Health & Safety
- Promoting Equality
- Risk Assessment
- Safeguarding Children
- Visitor and Intruder

Legal Framework:

The Children Act 1989 - s 47

The Protection of Children Act 1999

The Children Act 2004, 2006 (Every Child Matters)

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

The Children (NI) Order

The Children (Scotland) Order

This policy was adopted by _____ *(name of provider)*

On _____ *(date)*

Date to be reviewed _____ *(date)*

Signed on behalf of the provider _____

Name of signatory _____

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) _____