



Outdoor Policy

Here at Alexandra Park Children's Learning Community, we believe that our outdoor environment is as important as our indoor environment. We believe that children should have a wealth of learning experiences available to them and that we should plan our outdoor provision carefully to reflect this. At Alexandra Park, children have continuous access to the outdoors so that the child's learning can flow without interruption. The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage from September 2021 mentions in its page 6: "children learn and develop well in enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers".

- Children are to be supervised at all times when outside. One member of staff is to be in each area at all times (garden, sandpit area, and playground).
- Ensure the outdoor play area is safe and clear of litter before going out to play including, weeds and overgrowth of trees and grass.
- Staff to check for animal faeces in all areas of the outdoor provision.
- If doors are remaining open, they must be fixed back with door stops at all times.
- Ensure children are appropriately dressed for the weather conditions. Allow children to collect and help put on their own coats. During summer time, children must wear sun hats and sun block where provided before going outside.
- Encourage the children to access indoors and out calmly and quietly.
- Staff to take tissues and wipes outside, encouraging children to place used items in the bins inside.
- The bottom of the slides must be supervised at all times. No wheeled vehicles are to be driven on the soft surface.
- The climbing frame must be supervised at all times.
- Encourage play opportunities of the seven areas of learning. Sing action songs, utilise balls, the basketball net and create an obstacle course. Bring sand and water out and table top activities (Weather Permitting). Explore outside and talk about what you see or enjoy a quiet story on the grass. Most of all ENJOY YOUR OUTSIDE SPACE.
- Leave the outdoor play area tidy, encourage children to help line up any loose wheeled toys, clear up any loose tissues. At the end of the day ALL wheeled toys must be put safely in the bike shelter.
- Ensure fire exit gate on grass area is free from obstruction at all times, this includes gate leading from the playground.
- All age groups are encouraged to enjoy the outdoor space and where possible, in line with staff ratios and numbers of children, all age groups can interact together in the same areas.
- Staff to supervise the rope swing at all times
- Staff to supervise the play house at all times, only allowing three children at a time on the upper level of the playhouse.

- A risk assessment of the outdoors is completed every morning. Please double check there are no brambles or no slippery muddy areas.
- Sun canopy to be used in the baby area on hot days
- Staff to take drinking water outside on hot days
- Staff to apply sun cream in line with the sun cream policy and parental permission.
- Staff to make sure that fire exit gates are clear at all times
- Water trays accessible at all times to the children, and emptied after use.
- Staff Supervision: At all times children will be supervised by qualified staff. Adults must make health/safety issues a priority when outside and remain vigilant.
- Staff will make a judgement on extreme weather condition suitability for playing outdoors.
- Outdoor Water Play and sand play: Staff need to be aware of the inherent danger of water. Sandpit should be cover after use and changed in case it is spoiled.
- Swings and Hammocks: Supervise by an adult and make sure adequate use of it.
- Wooden Bridge: supervise by adult and checked every day to make sure its secure and that it is in good condition be to use.
- Water pump stations: supervise use of pump, water play, tubes, stones and covering of box(water container).
- Wooden saws: supervision of an adult when children using it one-by-one.
- Sound Garden: supervision when children playing around the bamboo tubes, metal resources (tubes, poles, and bells), especially when they are moving.
- Construction blocks: adult supervision when staking blocks and make sure they are secure and not too high.
- Atelier: supervise the use of atelier art resources and keep them safe and secure.
- Stones: supervise the use of stones, stones to be use in a safe way.
- Soil/grass mound: supervise the use of children when going up and down to avoid falls.
- Bikes kept in 'track' area of playground and needs adult intervention to reduce speed/risk of collisions. Discourage bumping and encourage correct use of bikes. Supervise if children are wearing clothes - laces/pull cords at risk of catching in wheels.
- Garden Pond: Maintain the gate close and secure. Risk assessment to be done in case of use.
- Chicken pen area: maintain the gate close, in case of visits use the plastic shoe cover and after feeding the chickens wash hands with soap and water. Keep their food store appropriately and the area clean and safe.
- Storage of Outside Play Resources: Small toys are stored in the right boxes. Resources that become unsuitable for good quality play will be removed by staff.
- Staffs to be vigilant in ensuring all children including those with additional needs are given equal access to outside play.

Date – May 2022

Signed manager –

- Review – May 2023

Signed Director -

