

Playtedz Ltd

Outdoor Learning Policy

STATEMENT OF INTENT

At Playtedz we believe that it is important for the children in our care to have the opportunity to experience the outdoors. Active learning experiences outdoors are essential for children. It gives them opportunities to practice their developing skills, make them feel good and to explore their world. It is also important for physical, mental and emotional development. We believe that children should begin to take risks and face challenges outdoors.

Aim

We aim to make the children's experiences outdoors a happy, safe and healthy one.

Method

The outdoor areas (playgrounds) will be resourced and available for the children to access on a daily basis. They will need to have appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather in order to enable them to fully access the activities outside.

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

Whenever our service users are using the outdoor area we will ensure it is appropriately staffed using the same ratios of support workers to children as applies indoors.

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

Staff will also endeavour to adhere to the following:

- The outdoor area is safe

- The outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of rubbish before it is used.
- Parents are advised that our service users need to wear appropriate clothing for summer/winter.
- Sun protection - see Sun policy.
- Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied before the children start their activity outside. All outdoor activities are supervised at all times following government guidelines for staff and vulnerable children ratio.

This policy is reviewed and updated every year or when legislation changes.

Updated Jan 2017