



St Thomas More Playgroup

Outdoor Play Policy

Outdoor play is extremely important for all children's learning and development. With this in mind the outdoor area will be open at all times, except for extreme weather conditions. Children will be able to access this area at anytime they like, whilst being supervised and child ratios taken into account.

There is research to suggest that outdoor play also has a positive impact on children's communication and speech development. Therefore at the playgroup, the outdoor area has equal importance and is planned for in the same detail as the indoor environment. The playgroup has various continuous provision resources that will help children develop in the seven areas of the Foundation Stage, for example maths resources, reading area and an outdoor mark making area.

Although we do have some spare clothes available, we ask that you provide a set of spare clothing in your child's bag which is to be left on their peg. We ask you take this bag home at the end of each session. We ask you to consider appropriate and weather suitable clothing for your child, for example, leggings, long sleeved tops, jumpers for when it is cold. We ask all children to have a pair of wellies or suitable outdoor footwear with them each session if possible.

Outdoor area risk assessment is carried out each morning. A general safety checklist will be ticked off before childrens arrival.

- The outdoor area is securely fenced
- The outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of any rubbish each morning
- There are no poisonous plants, herbicides and pesticides
- The outdoor gate is locked at all times and checked daily
- All outdoor play is supervised at all times

EYFS Links: The areas of learning and development, safety and suitability of premises environment and equipment.

Date of policy: September 2018

Review date: September 2019