



Outdoor Policy and Procedure:

At Ducklings Childcare Ltd our aim is to provide a safe and stimulating outdoor environment, which allows children to develop their physical skills, explore a range of natural materials and experience their immediate world. Outdoor play should offer activities to develop skills and confidence across the whole curriculum. The environment should offer learning experiences, which cannot be provided indoors. Children learn best through making sense of the world. The outdoor environment is an essential component of this world.

Safety and Security

The safety of the children is paramount when outside and it is essential for each child's well-being. Staff should check the outdoors area before the children go out to play, any debris, litter, weeds and alike should be discarded. All equipment and toys should also be checked before use. The gates should be locked before the children go out to play. Children should be allowed to take risks under the close supervision of staff.

Staff should make sure all possible steps are taken to prevent accidents. Any accidents that do occur should be recorded following the accident procedure.

Staff Ratios and Supervision

Staff should be supervising the children at all times. Ratios should be followed the same way as when inside. At least one adult should have an overview of the whole area. Staff should be spread out. No personal conversations between staff should take place at any time.

Stimulation

Outdoor play should be provided through exciting, meaningful, focused and targeted activities planned by the staff. Children should have free choice. Activities and resources should be added and change in line with children's interest and should be age/stage appropriate. Staff should initiate games and play with the children on their level, getting involved and talking to them.