

## OUTDOOR CURRICULUM POLICY

### AIM

To support children to engage in quality outdoor learning during all seasons and weather and develop an appreciation of nature and the benefits of the natural environment.

### IMPLEMENTATION

#### Leadership will:

- Develop and review this policy and ensure it is implemented throughout the site.
- Organise annual reminders to families and educators around best practice for outdoor play during wet weather, hot weather, inclement weather and use of water play.

#### Team Leaders will:

- Ensure educators are aware of this policy and it is implemented in their room.

#### Educators will:

- Plan for outdoor play every day with regards to risks posed by weather conditions
- Lift up events and occasions that encourage outdoor play like 'International Mud Day' and 'National Outdoor Classroom Day'
- Perform yard checks and monitor hazards in the outdoor play spaces to ensure they are safe for children to use
- Plan and implement visits and excursions to different environments such as local walks, to the primary school and local playgrounds to encourage children to explore the outdoors and provide opportunities to discuss different environments.
- Role model sun safe and wet weather appropriate practices such as wearing hats, sunscreen and longer shirts in summer and bringing overcoats and waterproof shoes in winter.
- Lift up the benefits of outdoor play and learning to families through documentation and displays
- Follow children's interest and inquiry in any topics relating to the natural environment (i.e. animals, insects, plants, weather) and include these topics in the curriculum.

#### Families will:

- Ensure their child comes to the Centre dressed in appropriate clothes for outdoor play (i.e. supportive shoes, layers if cold weather, clothes that cover their shoulders if hot weather)
- Ensure their child has multiple changes of clothes in their bag so they can change after engaging in messy or water play
- Understand that outdoor play is part of the National Quality Standards and will be offered regardless of weather with consideration given to children's comfort and safety. If they have concerns about outdoor play, they should speak with their child's team leader.

**EVALUATION:** This policy is seen to be working effectively when outdoor play can be safely included into each day's learning program.

#### National Quality Standards:

3.2.1 Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments.

3.2.3. The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.

**Implemented:** 19/05/2021    **Reviewed:** 13/05/2022

**Next Review:** 13/05/2024

#### Related policies:

*Inclement Weather Policy*

*Skin Protection Policy*

*Water Play Policy*

*Excursions and Outings Policy*