



Essex After School Clubs

Outdoor Play Policy

Outdoor Play

At Essex After School Clubs we are committed to the importance of outdoor play and the physical development of all children regardless of their age and stage of development. We provide outdoor play in all weathers. *(EYFS Requirement 3:58-Providers must provide access to an outdoor play area or, if that is not possible, ensure that outdoor activities are planned and taken on a daily basis.)*

We recognise that children need regular access to outdoor play in order to keep fit and healthy, develop their large and fine motor skills, experience learning in a natural environment and access to sunlight in order to absorb vitamin D more effectively. We also refer to The Chief Medical Office guidance on physical activity. ¹

The outdoor areas, both within the grounds and in the local community have a wealth of experiences and resources which help children to develop in a variety of ways, including independence, exploration and investigative skills, risk taking and self-esteem, all of which support children to develop skills now and for the future.

We ensure all areas are safe and secure through close supervision and the use of robust risk assessments and safety checks *(EYFS Requirement 3:64-Providers must ensure that they take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in their care are not exposed to risks.)*

Where possible and appropriate, we plan and encourage play that helps children understand and manage risks. This type of play allows children to explore and find their own boundaries in a safe environment with supportive practitioners. Staff are informed of the importance of safety procedures and are trained appropriately to ensure these procedures are followed effectively.

We obtain parental permission before outings.

We use this policy alongside the following policies to ensure the safety and welfare of children throughout their time outside:

- Health and Safety
- Sun Care
- Lost Child Policy
- Parents and Carers as Partners
- Supervision of Children
- Safeguarding and Child Protection

¹www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-physical-activity-guidelines