



Garden Play and Equipment Policy

It is well known that exercise is vital to aid the physical development of young children and to encourage them to continue a healthy lifestyle into their adult years.

As Ofsted Registered child-minders we encourage the children in our care to join in all sorts of different physical activities and provide a range of resources to make it fun and enjoyable.

In our garden we have a range of large outdoor equipment. Whilst this provides lots of opportunities for developing new physical skills and enjoyment it also brings danger. Children need to learn about danger and risk taking, however in order to make my garden a safe environment and to reduce the risk of possible accidents we have put the following procedures in place:

- All minded children will be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.
- Children will be taught the dangers of the equipment in a way that is suitable for their stage of development and understanding.
- Children will be encouraged to take turns and share equipment.
- The equipment will be checked/cleaned before use for animal/bird faeces.
- The equipment will be checked for wear and tear/ damage regularly and withdrawn from use if faulty.
- Children will be encouraged to participate but will not be made to do any activity that they are uncomfortable with, for example the climbing frame.

Sandpits - Provide great play and learning opportunities, however, they can also pose several health and safety risks.

- We will only use sand that is suitable for play and purchased from a recognised source.
- We will ensure the sand is changed; regularly
- We will ensure the sandpit has adequate drainage to prevent the sand from becoming water logged.
- We will ensure the sandpit is covered to prevent it being used as a litter tray by cats and other visitors to the garden.
- We will ensure that the children are closely supervised whilst playing in the sandpit.
- We will teach them about keeping the sand low to avoid it getting in their own and others eyes.

Skipping Ropes - There have been several serious incidents involving skipping ropes and I have, therefore, decided to follow the guidance from the British Heart Foundation's booklet 'Active Playgrounds, A guide for Primary Schools'



Safety considerations

Footwear: Children will need to wear supportive footwear. Children may need to be encouraged to wear trainers for skipping if their outdoor shoes are not considered to be safe.

Space: Children need to be made aware that they require adequate space all around them to be able to swing the rope without making contact with other ropes or skippers.

Clothing: sensible, loose-fitting clothing which allows free movement of the legs and arms.

Weather Conditions: Certain wet playground conditions or very hot weather may be considered unsafe.

Fluid Intake: this is particularly important in warm weather conditions to avoid dehydration and prevent the body from overheating. Children are not as efficient as adults in controlling body temperature.

Inappropriate use of the ropes: Children need to be made fully aware of the possible dangers of not using the ropes appropriately and correctly. In some cases, adult supervision may be necessary.

Children will never be left unsupervised with water.