**ALLOWAY EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

**OUTDOOR PLAY POLICY**

RATIONALE

*“As a child, I play outdoors every day and regularly explore a natural environment. I can choose to have an active life and participate in a range of recreational, social, creative, physical and learning activities every day, both indoors and outdoors”.*

(Health and Social Care Standards, 2018)

*“For children, particularly those in the early years, each day holds the potential for new experiences and learning. Spending time outdoors supports this learning and development in different ways from those in the indoor playroom”.*

(My World Outdoors, Care Inspectorate, 2016)

OBJECTIVES

* To create a sense of well-being and physical enjoyment of the outdoors.
* To promote imaginative outdoor play through carefully chosen resources.
* To promote an appreciation for our natural environment.
* To provide experiences that enrich the child’s sense of caring and respect for plants, creatures and the environment.
* To allow children the freedom of loud, energetic physical play within safe boundaries.
* To promote awareness of the cause and effect of weather.
* To make full use of outdoor opportunities and experiences including a quiet area.
* To promote group and individual play.
* To provide opportunities for children to engage in risky play.
* To involve children in the risk assessing of their environment and experiences.
* To allow children to make effective use of community facilities.

IMPLEMENTATION

* Ensure staff and children have appropriate outdoor clothing for all weathers.
* Ensure staff take into consideration outdoor play during the planning process and that the experiences take account of the age, stage and developmental needs of the children.
* Ensure all outdoor play equipment is kept in good order and is stored correctly.
* Ensure garden area is clean and free from any dangers. Record that outdoor checks have been complete and report any concerns to the Senior EYP.
* Allow children to develop inside play out into the garden area.
* Change play materials regularly to create interest and promote purposeful play.
* Provide child sized tools for digging, planting and weeding.
* Use the sustainability garden to promote growing, exploration, creativity and an understanding of how to care for the environment.
* Children should be consulted and given the opportunity to express their views on how this area should be developed.
* Staff to monitor the use of the outdoor play area and use information to develop the programme.
* Risk assessments in place and to be updated as appropriate.
* Ensure all care and hygiene routines are adhered to (see infection control policy).
* Provide opportunities for children to discover their local environment through regular visits to the local park and forest kindergarten site.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required in light of experience or any new national/local initiatives.

Updated Sept 25 – L. Miller