



# Wattisham Airfield Childcare Centre

## Outdoor learning

Wattisham Airfield Childcare Centre recognises the outdoor play is an integral part of early years provision. Outdoor play is essential for all aspects of a child's development. Outdoor play considers the provision of opportunities which can provide children with experiences which enable them to develop intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically.

We aim to provide a stimulating environment for children's learning both indoors and outdoors. Close observation is essential in order to assess children's ability and to ensure appropriate planning and continuity for the outdoor curriculum.

### The Outdoor Area

The outdoor area needs to be well laid out and provide:

- Safety.
- Grassed and hard surfaces areas.
- Challenging and exciting play.
- Growing and digging areas.
- Exploring areas to provide opportunities for finding mini-beasts.
- Quiet, reflective areas and busy moving areas.
- Developing exploration and imagination.
- Opportunities for large scale experiences.

### The role of the Adult Outdoors

Adults should be actively involved with children in their games and activities where appropriate and should not be solely in a supervisory role.

Staff will be:

- Talking with the children in a variety of ways.
- Supporting and encouraging.
- Helping children to find solutions to problems.
- Initiating games and activities.
- Extending their activities by making extra resources available and providing new ideas.
- Joining in games and activities.
- Observing, assessing and recording.
- Aware of safety issues.
- Aware of every child's equal right of access to a full outdoor curriculum which is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated regardless of race, culture, religion, gender or disability.
- Evaluating in order to plan appropriate resources and experiences.

The setting wants adults to make a positive contribution to children's play and creating challenging situations for children's experiences.

### **Safety in the Outdoor Area**

- Before the children use the outdoor space it is checked and recorded on a risk assessment sheet.
- Any hazards must be reported to management and dealt with as soon as possible.
- If the hazard poses a high risk to the children they must be brought in from the garden immediately
- Staff outside must always be aware of the safety of the children in their care, be vigilant at all times and never leave the outdoor area for any reason unless another member of staff has taken over responsibility.

- Staff need to move around the outdoor area to ensure they are adequately supervised.
- When going inside at the end of a session children will be counted to ensure they all go inside safely with an adult.
- Unqualified volunteers or students will not be left in charge of any areas when helping outdoors.
- All equipment must be stored away sensibly and carefully, to allow for safe and easy removal the next day.
- If a child is injured outdoors they should be taken inside if necessary. An accident form will be completed and the parents informed of the incident and treatment.
- Children’s clothing should be monitored carefully, e.g. unfasten shoe laces, scarves and ties on coats which are too long that can cause accidents, particularly on wheeled toys and climbing equipment.
- Staff need to encourage children to always look before they move on the slide or when jumping off apparatus.

**Legal framework:**

- Children Act, 1989, 2004, 2006
- The National Standards 2001
- Every Child Matters: Change for Children 2004
- EYFS Welfare Requirements – Organisation.

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|--------------------------------------|---------|
| This policy was adopted at a meeting |         |
| of                                   | name of |
| Held on                              | setting |
| Date to be reviewed                  | (date)  |
| Signed on behalf of the management   | (date)  |
| committee                            |         |
| Name of signatory                    |         |

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)

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**Review dates:**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ signed \_\_\_\_\_

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