



Outside Play Policy

Policy Statement

We believe that children thrive in the outdoor environment and are committed to investing and improving our outdoor spaces and equipment. The following statement expresses some of the health-related advantages of outdoor play and is an excellent reminder of its benefits even when the sun is not shining!

'Everyone who works with young children in early childhood programmes and schools knows how quickly bacteria and viruses spread in these environments. One way to reduce the spread of infection is through lots and lots of fresh air. Outdoor play enables the infectious agents to spread out and be dissipated; it also enables children to get fresh air and exercise and be less constrained than they are in the classroom' (Aronson, 2002).

Expected dress -

We expect each family to dress their children appropriately for current weather conditions during their attendance at Mill Grove Pre-school. Whatever the time of year, it is important for parents to make sure that the following is supplied:

- Mud suit
- Wellie Boots
- Several changes of clothes – which include underwear and socks

In **cold weather** this will include a warm coat, woolly hat, scarf, gloves and suitable - practical clothes such as trousers. **Winter Mud suits must also be fleece-lined.**

In **wet weather** this will include a waterproof jacket with a hood (or a waterproof hat) and suitable waterproof footwear such as wellington boots. Umbrellas are welcomed at these times!

In **sunny weather** this will include a sun hat (although we do have Pre-school sun-hats), and light clothing such as shorts and a t-shirt. We encourage parents to administer 'all day' suncream on their children, but will re-administer sun cream if requested; suncream will need to be supplied from home. We have plenty of shaded areas in the garden and we utilise these during sunny weather. We create shaded areas in the playground and make sure that all children have their sun hats on and water-bottles to hand.

Summer Mud suits, need to be water proof, and 'thin' (i.e. no need for fleece lining).

Sometimes when it is very warm we give children the option to play in the water sprinkler. Our usual procedure here is to use our own Pre-school clothes (t-shirt and briefs) and keep each child's own dry clothes, including their shoes in a separate labelled bag in order for them to have a clean, dry change of clothes ready for them when they have finished their 'wet' play.

Extreme weather –

By extreme weather conditions we mean such as; gale force winds, hail, thunder and lightning. If we are outside at a time when these conditions strike, then appropriate cover will be sought - Canopy/Reading Room/Outdoor Classroom/Main Hall.

Updated: January 2025