



October 2021

## *Large Outdoor 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. 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.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework states that “children must have opportunities to play indoors and outdoors”. We have a well-resourced outdoor play space, and make good use of other local outdoor play areas.

In our outdoor area we have a range of large play equipment, such as climbing frames and slides. While this provides lots of opportunities for developing new physical skills and enjoyment it also presents some hazards to young children, who often have little understanding of dangers or their own physical limitations. Children need to learn about danger and risk-taking, but in order to make the outdoor area as safe an environment as possible and to reduce the risk of possible accidents we have put the following procedures in place.

- All children will be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.
- Children will be taught to use the equipment safely and correctly, learning basic rules such as not running in front of swings, etc.
- 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 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- The equipment will be checked for wear and tear/damage regularly and withdrawn from use if faulty.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, eg the climbing frame.

If you have any concerns regarding your child using any piece of equipment outdoors please discuss them with us.