



EYFS Outdoor Learning Policy

Reviewed: January 2020

Next Review: January 2021

At Rivers, we believe outdoors is an essential part of children's daily life. During child initiated time, indoor and outdoor space is available to all children

simultaneously. Children choose whether they would like to learn indoors or outdoors.

The outdoor space gives children access to:

- fresh air, sunlight and daylight
- the natural world
- emotional health and well being
- physical development, learning through movement
- freedom
- risk and challenge
- social interactions
- developing vocabulary
- develop imagination and creativity

Our outdoor area promotes all seven areas of learning. Children have access to these areas and can choose what they would like to do.

A daily diagnostic risk assessment is carried out by staff to ensure the outdoor area is safe and secure for all children. Hazards are removed immediately if they pose a risk. If this is not possible, the site manager is informed and the area is closed off until it is safe for the children to use.

Resources

Resources are stored in boxes so children have access to them daily. Resources are cleaned daily and children have a key role in this. Our resources are flexible and open ended. Children can use these in many different ways to promote creativity and imagination.

The role of adults

- To encourage children to use their imagination and to take risks and play with ideas.
- Value the unexpected, unusual or unexpected responses and suggestions.
- Challenge, have high expectations and not being too easily satisfied.
- Enjoy sharing the children's excitement and working with them.
- Develop language, using opportunities to empathise and model 'thinking vocabulary'.
- Make space and creating time for children to enjoy the outdoor area.
- Intervene to extend learning and thinking.
- Probe children's understanding with open ended questions.
- Lead children to recognise and correct errors.