



# Outdoor Play

**Reviewed: June 2025**

**To be reviewed: June 2026**

At Little Learner's Nursery Group, we are committed to the importance of daily outdoor play and physical development in all children regardless of their age and stage of development. All activities will be made accessible to children with special educational needs to ensure that all children are able to freely and independently use the outdoor area and physical play opportunities to best effect.

Children need regular access to outdoor play in order to develop their large and small muscles, experience an environment that is different to the inside of the nursery and more importantly access sunlight in order to absorb vitamin D more effectively. The outdoor areas, both within the nursery grounds and in the local community have a wealth of resources which help children to develop in a variety of ways, including independence, exploration and investigative skills, risk taking and self-esteem all of which support children to develop skills for now and the future.

The nursery will ensure all areas are safe and secure through close supervision and the use of robust risk assessments and safety checks. Staff are informed of the importance of these procedures and are trained appropriately to ensure these procedures are followed effectively.

Parents' permission will be sought during the admissions procedures to allow staff to take children on short outings (e.g. to post a letter or visit a local church or shop). For outdoor trips that are further afield separate permission will be sought.

All outdoor play opportunities and outings will complement the indoor activities and provide children with both adult-led and child-initiated opportunities to enable children to learn and practice new skills, knowledge and behaviours.

Children will be encouraged to play outside in most weather conditions. At the beginning of the year the nursery will request certain items of clothing to be brought in to allow this to happen e.g. hats, wellington boots etc...These will be kept in your child's room. Only in cases of extreme weather will the outdoor learning environment be closed.

The nursery will use this policy alongside the following policies to ensure the safety and welfare of children throughout their time outside.

These additional policies include:

- Health and safety
- Sun care
- Babies and toddlers
- Lost child policy
- Parents and carers as partners
- Supervision of children
- Visits and outings.