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| **Little Learning Ladder**  **Outdoor Play** |

At Little Learning Laddernursery 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 learning difficulties and disabilities to ensure 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 at registration, this includes short outings into the local community. Please refer to the visits and outings policy for further information on this process.

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 need to have appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather in order to enable them to fully access the activities outside. This will include, but are not restricted to:

• Waterproof coat/trousers

• Footwear appropriate for playing out in

• Sun protection cream and a hat

We believe that access to the outdoor area is beneficial to the health and well being

of young children. As a consequence we do not want to restrict a child’s choice to play and learn outdoors. If your child is not well enough to go out, we would ask that they are kept home from the setting

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

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

Internal use only

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| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** | **Date disseminated to staff** | **Date for review** |
| April 2013 |  | June 2013 | April 2014 |