



Standard Operating Procedure

DCS, MOD schools - Early Years Setting

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Outdoor provision care

Written by: Anita Collins

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Review annually or if any changes are made to support practice.

1.Purpose

At all MOD Schools Settings, the aim of outdoor play is to provide a stimulating and enriched learning environment for all children to engage in all areas of the EYFS curriculum. Staff are all responsible for setting up, maintaining and tidying away equipment. We must all be aware of the children's safety, not just within our key groups but for all. A security and safety check of the outdoor play area must be completed before children go out. This will be performed by the staff in the morning and before afternoon session. A specific Risk assessment is written that all staff are aware of that identifies and minimises risks in the learning environment. This includes factors that need to be taken into consideration, staffing ratios required for safe access, as well as daily checks to ensure equipment and area is safe.

We will encourage all children to be confident in the outdoor learning area, but we acknowledge that the children will set and discover their own limitations in their own time, our role as supportive practitioners is to facilitate creative and exploratory learning.

2.Scope

- To enhance all children's appreciation of the natural world and extend and broaden their learning experiences.
- To provide a healthy environment in which all children can learn and develop as well as make sense of the world around them.
- Each garden area should reflect the curriculum for observations and develop an understanding of the world around them. These are moments that can support focussed and spontaneous observations that can be carried out by staff.
- The staff will ensure all areas are safe and secure through close supervision and the use of daily risk assessments and safety checks.
- On completion of the daily risk assessment, staff may opt to close parts of the garden that they feel may be hazardous due to weather conditions or put mitigating factors in place e.g., limit how many children can access at a time or specialised apparatus required such as welly boots and rain suits.
- Staff will always be aware of the safety of the children in the outside areas in their care, they must be always vigilant and staff to work as a team, if a need for a member of staff to leave the outside area. To let other staff know and ensure ratios of staff to children are maintained.



- To incorporate continuous provision throughout the day, which allows the children to play and explore in an inclusive indoor and outdoor learning environment, this supports their ability to make choices and decisions about their learning.

3.Responsible Persons

Management and Room leaders are to make sure planning for outside area and risk assessments are done, this is in collaboration with all staff, who are responsible for safety of children when outdoors.

Responsibilities

- All staff to allow all children to experience different seasons, to consider the most appropriate ways to be able to access outside in all weathers from snow to sunshine.
- It is vital that staff ratios are maintained in the outside learning area and staff are effectively deployed to support children, this will ensure the outdoor area is adequately supervised. Each member of staff will work in areas to ensure so that no space is unsupervised and will work collaboratively with colleagues to ensure the needs of the children are met.
- SM's, DSM's & Room leaders are to ensure outside learning environment risk assessments are completed BEFORE the children are allowed access to outside learning environment. This must include checking the temperature of outdoor equipment such as hoses and checking for animal faeces and signs of pests, especially snakes and monkeys.
- All staff will have read and be aware of the risk assessments and procedures in place daily, with any adaptations necessary based on daily circumstances and where appropriate. It is also vital that staff are trained to ensure that these procedures are followed effectively.
- All staff to remain in ratios throughout the time that outdoor learning is available.
- All staff will ensure all climbing apparatus (if available in your setting) is supervised that will be according to the age of the children accessing it.
- All staff to ensure outside learning environment is cleaned appropriate to allow children to access safely and all resources are put away at end of the day.
- Staff will monitor UV index and outside temperature and limit the time the children spend outside in the sun.
- All staff and children will promote Sun Safety by wearing hats during hot weather.
- Staff and Children will have access to fresh drinking water throughout the outdoor play session.