



Abbey Wood Grange Day Nursery

Play Policy

Abbey Wood Grange has adopted this play policy to reflect our commitment to ensuring that all the children in our care have quality play opportunities.

We believe that:

- Play is essential to development as it contributes to the cognitive, physical, social and emotional wellbeing of children and youth.
- We acknowledge that play is critically important to children's development and learning. Children exhibit a behavioural imperative and instinctive desire to play. Through play children learn self-confidence and resilience. A child's development, and future capacity as an adult, will be affected by their access to a range of play opportunities.
- Play is a natural and universal activity. It is a process with no necessary outcome. Play is freely chosen, personally directed and essentially motivated.
- We will encourage children through play to find out about themselves, their abilities and interests. Play, therefore is one critical way children come to understand themselves and the world around them. Play helps children cope with difficult and stressful situations.
- We will support the children's right to participate fully in leisure, recreation and play, their opinions and views will be listened to and taken into account.
- We will work towards ensuring that a wider range of play opportunities are available to children with special needs, and that all provision aims towards becoming fully inclusive and accessible.

Outdoor Play

At Abbey Wood Grange nursery 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 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 before any child leaves the nursery during the day, 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.

Outdoor play is a vital part of a child's development and children will be given every opportunity to explore and experience this throughout the year at Nursery.

The Nursery provides:

- Sit-n-ride toys appropriate to age of children
- Climbing frame & slides
- Play houses
- Water and sand activities
- Ball games

Children will be supervised at all times and the Nursery garden has adequate fencing surrounding the garden for your child's safety.

Parents are requested to:

- Provide their child with a sun-hat
- Sensible footwear depending on weather

Sunscreen if your child is particularly sensitive to high street brands, which the Nursery provides. The Nursery staff will ensure that all children have high factor sunscreen applied before they play out during the summer months.

Garden

Prior to use, please check the playground and garden for any potential dangers.

Adventure Playground

Carry out check of the apparatus to ensure equipment is safe for children to play on. At least one member of staff should be supervising the children on the apparatus at all times.

Sand Pit

Staff to ensure that the cover is on and re-covered after use.

Swings

At least one member of staff to be in close supervision at all times during use. Only 3 children are to be allowed to play on the swings at any one time. Ensure that children are securely fastened into swings where appropriate.

Portable Slides

For use of children up to 3 years only.

At least one member of staff to be in close supervision at all times whilst in use.

Trundle Toys, Bikes and Buggies

Ensure all trundle toys and bikes are dry.

Check all trundle toys and bikes for stability.