Wee Wild Sparks Outdoor Nursery

Inclement Weather policy

Wee Wild Sparks Inclement weather policy

Wee Wild Sparks sessions take place entirely outdoors. Sessions will only be cancelled in exceptional circumstances including high winds or lightening. Parents and staff are advised on how to dress to suit the weather to take account for seasonal variations including extreme hot/cold/wet weather.

We will only cancel sessions in exceptional circumstances. For this reason:

The nursery manager will:

- Check the forecast, be prepared for the expected weather ahead and brief the staff team at the start of the day.
- Make provision and adapt activities to suit the weather, as follows:

Cold/wet/windy weather	**Hot sunny weather**
Rig up tarps in advance of rain	Advise families to apply sunscreen(minimum SPF 15) Provide shade, cool water and spare sunscreen (minimum SPF 15) on sunny days
Rig up wind break tarps to create sheltered spaces for lunch/tools/crafts	Be vigilant for early signs of heat fatigue, heat stroke and take preventative action.
Ensure a good provision of extra layers and spare waterproofs are available. All children are also requested to carry spares.	Discourage very active play and sustained running around.
Relocate the group to sheltered areas, such as near the tent. Ensure children's coats/bags are fully covered, using tarps/storage boxes if required.	Encourage water play, low pace games and use of shaded areas. Make sure all children drink plenty of water, observe each child having a good drink at least at snack (am & pm) and lunch.
Bring the group together regularly for active 'warm up' games and make sure everybody takes part. Manage water and mud play carefully and ensure children have warm and dry spares ready if they do get wet. Be vigilant for early signs of hypothermia and take preventative action. On wet days, conduct thorough checks of children's feet and inner layers at snack, lunch and fire circle. Physically check children, don't just ask if they are dry.	

Be ready to send home any child who is inappropriately dressed or not coping with the conditions

Help parents understand the need to protect their children from inclement weather

Wild Sparks Staff should:

- Support the leader with all above responsibilities and follow delegated instructions carefully
- Take extra care to check on children's pastoral needs during cold/wet/hot weather to keep everybody safe and comfortable.

- Be alert to early signs of weather related illness in children (e.g. cold, dehydration, heat stroke), take action and report concerns immediately to the leader
- Be prepared for extreme weather & bring suitable clothing, food and drink for themselves
- Help children understand how to keep themselves protected in a range of different weathers, support them to be involved in their own care and welfare.

Parental responsibilities

Parents and carers are advised of appropriate clothing for each season. Children are required to come suitably dressed, in accordance with the following clothing requirements that parents and carers are notified of at enrolment.

Autumn / Winter	**Spring / Summer**
Vest or T-shirt	Long sleeved T-shirt, blouse or shirt*
Long sleeved top	Light trousers*
Hooded top/fleece or thick jumper	Socks
Waterproof jacket	Trainers, shoes or Wellington boots.
Thick socks (thermal or two pairs of thin ones)	(Sandals and flip-flops are not suitable)
Trousers	Sunhat & sunglasses (if required)
Waterproof trousers	* Exposed arms and legs (shorts or short sleeved tops) may lead to exclusion from certain activities so long sleeves are advised.
Wellington boots or waterproof hiking boots.	Sunscreen on exposed areas, minimum SPF 15
Hat, gloves and scarf	
Apply insect repellent	Apply insect repellent

When a child is presented in unsuitable clothing Wee Wild Sparks will:

- Discuss this sensitively with the parent, explaining the importance of children's welfare and the need to be protected in all weathers
- Provide a loan of spare clothing. If no well fitting spare clothing is available, as a last resort, we may have to send the child home.
- Explore arrangements to support the family where they are unable to provide their own suitable clothing due to socio-economic barriers

Approved on: _____August 2018 (Alice Warren)

Next Review Date: ____August 2019_____