

Wee Wild Sparks Kit List

A guide to outdoor clothing



“There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing”

Clothing is the most important factor in whether your child enjoys their days in the woods. Warmly dressed children will enjoy themselves even in wet cold conditions, but cold, wet children will not!

In addition to their clothing, your child will need a sturdy rucksack that they can carry themselves, containing a change of clothes enclosed in a plastic bag, their lunch box and a water bottle.

We get a lot of questions about clothing, so the following list is very detailed! We are more than happy to talk it through with you and can guide you to products and suppliers that we have found offer best value for money.

Clothing needs changed throughout the year, but if you opt for layers you don't need a separate wardrobe, just less of the same on warmer days. Clothing becomes more important in **winter**; this table details what your child will need to stay warm once the temperature drops below 4* from about November–February.

	Base layer	Middle layer	Outer layer
Feet	2 pairs of socks including 1 thermal / fleece/ wool pair		Wellies with thick socks or welly liners.
Body/Arms	Vest / thermal top	2–3 thin tops / t-shirt including 1 long sleeve top & thick jumper or fleece	Waterproof jacket and trousers or full body suit. <i>*(Waterproofs are essential all year round, the ground can be soggy at any time and we must be prepared for unpredictable weather. Waterproofs also keep mud and grit out to keep children comfortable).</i>
Legs	Thermal leggings / thick tights	Ordinary trousers	
Head / Neck	Roll neck / polo neck tops can add extra warmth.		Cosy hat & Cosy scarf / snood
Hands			2-3 pairs of Magic gloves & 1 pair of cosy waterproof mittens

Base Layer

If you want to invest in good quality thermals, we recommend a merino wool base layer, which keeps the body cool in summer and warm in winter. Standard thermals, thick tights or lined leggings / joggers are a good second option.

Middle Layers

A fleece jumper is windproof, soft, warm and not too bulky so fits comfortably under a jacket. We recommend that arms and legs are covered all year round to protect against stings, scratches, ticks and sunburn. It's cool and shaded in the woods so there is little chance of your child over- heating.

Feet

Whilst walking boots are warmer, we find most families opt for **wellies** with thick socks or welly liners, simply because these are the more waterproof option.

We recommend you go for a chunky welly with a thick sole which adds an extra layer of insulation on cold days. The following are all brands we have seen perform well, for a range of prices:

[Warm Wellies](#), [Dunlop Blizzard](#), [Mountain Warehouse](#), [Viking](#)

Where possible avoid wellies with a very smooth rubber finish, this tends to wear out and split easily. Walking boots are fine on dry winter days but they aren't effective against puddle wading or very rainy days.



Rucksacks

A well-fitting, sturdy rucksack is important, your child will need to carry this themselves. Please make sure your child's rucksack has these features

Size: 12 – 15 Litres: This will comfortably hold everything your child will need to carry.

Chest Strap: This is essential for comfort and weight dispersal.

Side pocket: For water bottle

Get in touch for suggestions of the best value models around at any time as they tend to change regularly.

Body / Arms / Legs - Outer Layer

We recommend either of the following first two options:



Thick polyester (PU) separates

Trousers with an elasticated waist, or waterproof dungarees with clips and a waterproof jacket.

This PU material has a rubber like quality so is totally waterproof and doesn't rip easily. Many brands offer a fleece-lined version which is great for winter, though we'd still recommend piling the layers on underneath this material.

Brands we've seen perform well include Lupilu (available at Lidl from time to time but also Amazon, Ebay & vinted), [Didriksons](#), and [Wet Wednesdays](#).

OR



Thick, breathable ski-style suit / jacket & trousers

A thick, waterproof all in one suit is a good option and may mean that you need fewer layers underneath.

Made from composite materials these have a Gore-Tex type outer layer that is durable and waterproof, and a cotton or fleece and mesh lining. The composition is breathable and warm and doesn't require lots of under layers, but slightly bulkier and more cumbersome than the PU alternative. They are also more expensive, but the top end brands are tough enough to pass or sell on once outgrown. A mix and match approach can work well; e.g. PU bottoms and a thick ski-style jacket.

Brands we've seen perform well include [Didriksons](#), [Spotty Otter](#) and [Polarn O pyret](#).



Puddle or rain suit – thin polyester

All in one puddle suits are tempting but be aware that they are often splash proof rather than fully waterproof. They are too thin and not durable enough for the sort of activities your child will regularly be doing at Wee Wild Sparks.

Hands – Gloves & Mittens

There is no one option that suits all conditions, so we find a combination of different gloves works best. Magic gloves (thin woolen gloves) are easy to slip on and off and provide a thin layer of warmth. We ask that you pack a few pairs of these in winter so they can be changed when wet, in winter pack a clean pair in your child's lunch box for eating.

In winter a waterproof, thermal mitten is the best option, these are warmer than gloves and easier to get on and off. Even on very cold days your child is unlikely to keep their mittens on all day as they will want to use their hands to touch and handle things, but they are essential for short stints of warming up. When choosing mittens opt for ones with a **long, gauntlet style arm** as these stay on more easily. We recommend something like these from [Didriksons](#) or these from [Polarn O Pyret](#). Shop around for deals or second hand; decent mittens tend to be pricey but are worth every penny!



There are many websites where you can source good quality outdoor clothing, including [Little Trekkers](#) and those highlighted in this kit list above. [Ebay](#) or [Vinted](#) are great sources of second-hand gear.

We also have a range of spare clothes on site that we are happy to show parents so you can see or try different options before committing.

Please also let us know if you have any clothing tips you want to share with other families!

