



Outdoor Policy

At Katey's Nursery and Pre-school we believe that:

- Outdoor play is central to young children's learning.
- Indoors and outdoors is viewed as one combined and integrated environment.
- Outdoors is both a teaching and learning environment, where adults interact with children to extend their knowledge, and skills.
- The outdoor space offers children the opportunity to use effective styles of learning – playing, movement and sensory experience.
- Children are given a wide range of open-ended equipment and environments.
- Children are able to control, change and modify their environment.

These are the key principles that underpin effective outdoor play.

Sand tray:

Children to be supervised at all times.

Must be covered when not in use and always replaced at the end of the day.

Sand must not be thrown.

Children to help tidy the sand trays.

Sand to be open to children at every opportunity.

Children encouraged to share sand toys.

Water play:

Children to be supervised at all times.

Water aprons to be worn.

Water emptied at the end of each day.

Water to be available to children at any opportunity

Through outdoor play the children develop in all seven areas of learning of the EYFS.

1. Developing Personal, Social and Emotional Development through Outdoor Play:

The resources and experiences outside provide opportunities for children to develop co-operation and build relationships.

Children are encouraged to work together, take turns and help each other.

Children are encouraged to take responsibility for the resources in the outside area. They are able to set up the areas and tidy resources away.

We support children in initiating and developing their own ideas and interests.

2. Developing **Physical Development** through Outdoor Play:

The planning of equipment in the outdoor space takes into account all stages of children's physical development.

There is a good range of equipment to develop children's co-ordination and control skills.

The resources and equipment encourage a variety of ways of using the body.

The children are presented with challenges that enable them to discover what they are able to do whilst learning about the limitations of their bodies.

Children are able to experience a variety of different sized materials and use them in a variety of ways.

Children are encouraged to use their bodies imaginatively e.g. dance, music and movement.

Practitioners ensure that the children have equal access to all areas of physical development.

The resources and experiences outside provide opportunities for children to act out their feelings.

3. Developing **Communication and Language** through Outdoor Play:

There is a good range of stimulating first-hand experiences for children and adults to talk about.

There are places for children to talk with each other.

Reading and writing are incorporated into activities and experiences.

They are relevant and meaningful to children's interests and patterns of learning.

4. Developing **Literacy** through Outdoor Play:

Children are encouraged to use the written word or write for a range of purposes, e.g. signs, messages, tickets.

Non-fiction books are a stimulus for investigations outdoors.

Stories are told/read/re-enacted outside.

Children are encouraged to express their thoughts, ideas and interests through role play.

5. Developing **Mathematics** through Outdoor Play:

Children are encouraged to explore patterns, shape, measurement and numbers in the natural and made world.

There are resources to support this range of learning.

The available resources enable children to solve mathematical problems.

Practitioners encourage children to develop and use their mathematical language.

The range of equipment enables children to work on a large scale.

Children are encouraged to play mathematical games with large equipment.

Numbers are incorporated into children's play.

Children are encouraged to write numbers or record mathematical ideas in relevant and appropriate ways.

6. Developing **Understanding** of the **World** through Outdoor Play:

Children are encouraged to observe and express their ideas about similarities and differences in the natural world.

Children are encouraged to explore the physical environment and are able to solve problems in their own way.

Changes in the weather are used to stimulate investigative work.

There is a good range of natural and made materials for children and adults to talk about.

There is a sufficient range of resources to develop children's interest in movement.

Children are able to use a range of natural and made materials to design, make and build.

The outside area is organised so that children are provided with opportunities to play out their life experiences and to develop imaginative play.

7. Developing **Expressive Arts and Design** through Outdoor Play:

Children are encouraged to represent their ideas imaginatively.

There are a range of materials so that they can create 2D and 3D images.

Children are encouraged to explore colour, shape and texture within natural materials.

Practitioners to plan for music, movement, dance, singing and drama to take place in the outside area.

Children have the opportunity to experience a large range of textures and different materials.

Opportunities are provided for children to develop large-scale work.

Appropriate resources are available to support large-scale mark making.

Katey's
NURSERY & PRE-SCHOOL

All our Policies & Procedures are crafted to ensure the highest possible standards at our setting and will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner, if necessary, in light of specific events or relevant statutory changes.