

**ABC NURSERY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES****POLICY 46: Outdoor Play**

- 46.1 At ABC Nursery we are committed to the importance of 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.
- 46.2 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.
- 46.3 The outdoor areas, both within the nursery grounds and in the local community 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.
- 46.4 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.
- 46.5 Parents' permission will be sought for children to go for short walks to the local library / park etc when the parents register their child and this permission will be reviewed when parents request it or otherwise on a 6 monthly basis. If the outings are on a minibus/coach/bus/train then permission will be sought beforehand. Please refer to the visits and outings policy for further information on this process.
- 46.6 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.
- 46.7 The nursery will use this policy alongside the following policies to ensure the safety and welfare of children throughout their time outside:
- Health and safety
  - Sun care
  - Lost child policy
  - Escort Policy

Policy updated	01/11/2014
Signed on behalf of ABC Nursery	
Policy review date	November 2015