

Hartcliffe Nursery School and Children's Centre

Outside Learning policy

Rationale

At Hartcliffe Children's Centre we value the unique opportunities for play and learning children can experience outside and therefore provide open access in all weathers. We see outdoor learning as an entitlement for all children and as such ensure equality of access as well as choice.

Aims

We aim to provide open access to the outdoor area throughout the year, whatever the weather and suitable clothing is provided for this purpose.

We aim to provide the highest quality learning experiences in all areas of the curriculum outside but do so in a way that we believe is complementary to the indoor area e.g. bigger, messier, more active etc.

We provide an outdoor learning environment with 'managed risks' through regular risk assessment.

We aim to exploit the particular opportunities in the outdoors including:

Physical play – climbing, balancing, running, jumping etc.

The opportunity to adopt healthy lifestyles through physical exercise

The opportunity for children to learn to manage their body temperature in both hot and cold weather.

Exploration of the natural world through first hand experiences – wildlife, gardening,

Sensory experiences – things we can touch, smell and hear outside as well as the experience of changing seasons and weather.

Larger, louder, more active play and learning.

Cognitive challenge provided by open-ended play opportunities, linking up different areas outdoors as well as a higher degree of risk-taking.

We use the guidance provided by the EYFS 2008 to ensure that we provide a wide range of experiences

To review Summer 2014