



Outdoor Play Policy

Policy Statement

Seed to tree child care recognises the importance of outdoor play and experience for all children. The outdoor environment provides a range of developmentally appropriate, challenging, diverse, inclusive and enriching experiences for all children. *Seed to tree childcare* is committed to following good practice in relation to ensuring ratios are maintained when outside the service and all staff members are aware of which ratios will be maintained. This policy is communicated to all parent/guardians.

Principle

This policy is underpinned by the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Quality and Regulatory Framework.

At Seed to tree childcare

- We acknowledge the importance of play in developing social, communication and co-ordination skills.
- Children at seed to tree child care will have the opportunity to play in the fresh air every day, in an enclosed play area with supervision by a minimum of two adults.
- Staff position themselves in different locations in the outdoor area so that all children are visible to them.
- Children are asked to bring in coats, jackets and other warm clothes to wear during the winter.
- During the summer months, sun protection is always applied before outdoor play, and there are sheltered and shaded areas for children should the children need shelter from the weather.

Seed to tree childcare Outdoor Area

- Outdoor play area consists of an enclosed and secure play area.
- The enclosed play area incorporates various outdoor play equipment which is all on safety rubber matting.
- Other soft matting is provided for babies and younger children to sit and play with toys.
- **Seed to tree childcare** request that all equipment is treated with respect by all those that use it and any damages should be reported to staff immediately.
- All damaged equipment will be repaired or replaced.
- The outdoor area is visually checked by staff on a daily basis to ensure it is free of hazards.



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Where the outdoor area is not on the premises

- A risk assessment is completed before leaving **Seed to tree childcare**.
- **Seed to tree child care** Outings Policy is followed.
- A risk assessment is carried out in line with **seed to tree child care** Risk Management Policy.
- Staff will ensure that children are free from unwanted attention when undertaking Outdoor Play off the premises; quiet venues will be sought, and members of the public will be politely and discretely asked to respect the privacy of the children.
- Should unwanted attention continue, children will return to **seed to tree child care** and another Outdoor venue considered.

Last Review Date of this policy: 11-Jul-2024

Signed: Pooja Patidar

Date: 11-Jul-2024

Name: Pooja Patidar

Person responsible for approving the Policy.