

“Wet weather Policy”

Background Information:.

At Surrey Downs kindergarten we developed a Wet Weather Policy in 2014 based on our observations, beliefs about children’s learning and current research which had shown the benefits to children’s wellbeing of spending time outdoors. There are many “lessons” that can be learnt in the outdoors that cannot be taught nearly as effectively in a “classroom”. We asked ourselves should we limit outdoor play to the veranda in Winter and only venture out when it isn’t raining? We came to the conclusion that this would mean missed learning opportunities as the change in weather to cooler, wetter days means our kindergarten yard becomes full of new learning potential. Things look, feel, sound and smell different in the rain. Surfaces are slippery, squelchy and sloshy and puddles appear. Who can deny how much fun it is to jump or stomp in puddles? Different creatures emerge (we have seen snails) and wet sand and mud is so much fun!

Preschools in Europe, UK, Canada and the US allow children to play outdoors all year round. Their Winter climate is more extreme than ours as most places don’t just have rain they have snow. If children in those countries can enjoy outdoor play, so too should our children. The key is to be dressed appropriately, so that we are protected from the elements and can comfortably enjoy our time outside.

We developed our Policy firstly by brainstorming with the children what they would need to wear outside on a cold day. These were some of the responses: – “a beanie”, “a scarf” and “gloves. We then brainstormed what clothes would be needed if we wanted to play in the rain. Here are some great suggestions:- “a rain jacket”- “an umbrella” – “gum-boots”- “a raincoat”- “A rain hat”- “rain pants”-. We talked about how clothes needed to be rainproof so our bodies won’t get wet. Governing Council then discussed this issue and agreed that if appropriate clothing is worn, the children at Surrey Downs kindergarten will benefit from being able to take part in outdoor learning experiences all year round.

Our Policy

If children are appropriately dressed they will be permitted to play outdoors on rainy days in order to fully explore the great outdoor environment.

Please send named, waterproof clothing for your child to wear when playing and learning outdoors on rainy days. The kindy has some gumboots that children can use at kindy if they have forgotten theirs, but we encourage each child to have their own.

Our Policy will be reviewed and ratified by Governing Council each year and we will discuss appropriate wet weather gear with each cohort of children as part of our program.