



## Activities

# Garden Play and Equipment Policy

It is well known that exercise is vital to aid the physical development of young children and to encourage them to continue a healthy lifestyle into their adult years.

As an Ofsted Registered Childminder I encourage the children in my care to join in all sorts of different physical activities and provide a range of resources to make it fun and enjoyable.

In my garden I will have swing.. Whilst this provides lots of opportunities for developing new physical skills and enjoyment it also brings danger. Children need to learn about danger and risk taking, however in order to make my garden a safe environment and to reduce the risk of possible accidents I have put the following procedures in place:

All minded children will be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

Children will be taught the dangers of the equipment in a way that is suitable for their stage of development and understanding.

Children will be encouraged to take turns and share equipment.

The equipment will be checked/cleaned before use for animal faeces.

The equipment will be checked for wear and tear/ damage regularly and withdrawn from use if faulty.

Children will be encouraged to participate but will not be made to do any activity that they are uncomfortable with, for example the climbing frame.

If you have any concerns regarding your child using this piece of equipment please do discuss them with me.

Sandtable - Provide great play and learning opportunities, however, they can also pose several health and safety

risks. I will only use sand that is suitable for play and purchased from a recognised source.

I will regularly ensure the sand is changed; in between I will sieve for foreign bodies and rinse through with a diluted sterilising agent if applicable. Toxoplasmosis can be spread from cats to humans through dirty sandpits. Toxoplasmosis can harm an unborn child, but is usually a mild illness in children and adults. It causes a rash, swollen glands, fever and feeling unwell.

I will ensure the sandpit has adequate drainage to prevent the sand from becoming water logged. Insects can live in damp sand and may bite or sting children.

I will dispose of spilt sand.

I will ensure the sandpit is covered to prevent it being used as a litter tray by cats and other visitors to the garden.

I will ensure that the children are closely supervised whilst playing in the sandpit.

I will teach them about keeping the sand low to avoid it getting in their own and others eyes.

If you would like your child to wear a hat whilst playing in the sand then please let me know.

### Safety considerations

Footwear : children will need to wear supportive footwear. Children may need to be encouraged to wear trainers for playground skipping if their outdoor shoes are not considered to be safe.

Clothing : sensible, loose-fitting clothing which allows free movement of the legs and arms.

Weather conditions : Certain wet playground conditions or very hot weather may be considered unsafe.

Fluid intake : this is particularly important in warm weather conditions to avoid dehydration and prevent the body from overheating. Children are not as efficient as adults in controlling body temperature.

Washing up bowls of water and water table - Children can have great fun using these and it can also support their development in a variety of ways. However there are safety issues when children play with water and I have therefore put the following procedures in place:

Children will never be left unsupervised with water.

If a child needs the toilet then all children will come inside with me. If the doorbell rings again all the children will come inside with me.

I will take my phone outside with me.

I will take enough towels and spare clothes outside.

The bowl will be immediately emptied when not in use.

I will support the children to learn about water safety.

Emergency procedures are in place and I maintain my first aid certificate.

#### GARDEN/OUTDOOR PLAY AND EQUIPMENT PERMISSION:

I CAN CONFIRM THAT I HAVE READ AND AGREED TO YOUR GARDEN PLAY AND EQUIPMENT POLICY.

I AGREE FOR MY CHLD TO HAVE SUPERVISED ACCESS TO A COMPLETE RANGE OF LARGE INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING SLIDES AND SWINGS.

I UNDERSTAND THAT ALL PLAY EQUIPMENT WILL BE CHECKED FOR CLEANLINESS, CORRECT OPERATION AND SAFETY.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS PLAY EQUIPMENT MAY BE LOCATED WITHIN THE SETTING GARDEN, INSIDE THE SETTING OR AT A 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY LOCATION SUCH AS A PLAY CENTRE, LOCAL PARK AND PURPOSE BUILT PLAY FACILITIES IE SOFT PLAY.

I UNDERSTAND THAT MY CHILD WILL BE KEPT SAFE AND SECURE AT ALL TIMES WHILST PLAYING ON THIS EQUIPMENT.

PARENT/CARER SIGNATURE :

DATE: