



## Adverse Weather and Sun Policy

### Policy statement

There are times when we are faced with varying types of weather including, sun, heavy rains, storms, snow etc. These can pose risks to the safety of staff, children, families and visitors so this policy outlines the measures we will take to reduce risks associated with varying adverse weather effects.

Little Elms actively promotes outdoor play in most weathers and parents are required to provide adequate clothing so that children can benefit from the various learning opportunities outdoor play in varying weathers have to offer.

It is our policy that children will have the opportunity to play outside in the wind, rain, snow and sunshine, whilst wearing adequate clothing and sun cream.

### Adverse Weather

In the event of adverse weather events, we will make every effort to keep the nursery open and to cause as little disruption as possible. All our staff are expected to attempt to get to work, regardless of how they normally travel to the nursery, but we recognise that in cases of very extreme weather conditions the nursery may not be able to operate to its usual opening times, and there is a small possibility that the nursery may not be able to open.

Any decisions will be made by the Nursery Manager in conjunction with the Company Directors and will take into account the safety of the children, their parents and the staff team.

### Procedures for Adverse Weather

- We will keep to OFSTED requirements for ratios, we would work on the number of children who have arrived at the nursery and who are due in on that particular day.
- In the event of staff shortages, the Staffing Contingency Arrangement Process will be followed.
- If ratios cannot be maintained or if we feel the health, safety or welfare of the children is compromised then we may take the decision to close the nursery. This will be decided by Company Directors.
- If this is the case, the nursery manager or deputy will telephone parents as soon as possible. Managers should ensure they have access to staff and family contact information at all times.
- If adverse weather is forecast during the day then the Manager will speak to the Head of Operations and a decision will be made as to whether to close the nursery early and parents will be contacted to arrange early collection of their children.
- No refunds will be offered due to closure for adverse weather conditions.

### Snow and Icy Conditions

In the event of snow and/or icy conditions, the outdoor areas (including those directly leading up to the nursery) are gritted to reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls.

Signage will be used to highlight 'high traffic areas' where it may be slippery.

If conditions are too severe, alternate routes may be used to access the nursery and/or areas of the outdoor areas may be sectioned off to remove the risk.



## Sun Safety

At Little Elms we are committed to ensuring that all children are fully protected from the dangers of too much sun/UV rays. According to the NHS, sunburn increases your risk of skin cancer. Sunburn does not just happen on holiday. ***You can burn in the UK, even when it's cloudy.***

Our procedures are in line with guidance for sun safety outlined by the NHS and guidance on UV levels issued by the MET office which are as follows:

- ❖ 1-2 Low
- ❖ 3-5 Moderate
- ❖ 6-7 High
- ❖ 8-10 Very high
- ❖ 11 Extreme

## Sun Cream

Sun cream is provided by the parent and must comply with the below:

- a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30 to protect against UVB
- at least 4-star UVA protection
- must not have passed expiry date. Where stored on site, the nursery staff will put a date on the sun cream of opening and dispose of when passed manufacturers expiry date (usually 12 months)

## Procedures for Sun Safety

- During the summer months, the nursery management team will check the UV rays for the day and communicate this to the playrooms. This information is checked on the MET office website <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/uv-index-forecast/#?tab=map&map=MaxUVIndex&zoom=5&lon=-4.00&lat=55.71&fcTime=1597363200>
- Where the UV rays are 3 or above, the nursery management team will determine whether sun cream is necessary to be applied in accordance with the below and this decision will be communicated to playrooms daily during the summer months.
- Children must have a clearly labelled sun hat which will be worn at all times whilst outside in sunny weather. This hat will preferably be of legionnaires design (i.e. with an extended back and side to shield children's neck and ears from the sun) to provide additional protection
- Children must have their own sun cream (in accordance with the above section 'Sun Cream') with prior written consent for staff to apply. This enables children to have sun cream suitable for their own individual needs. Staff must be aware of the expiry date and discard sunscreen after this date
- Emergency nursery sun cream will be stored on site (nursery sun cream will always be factor 50).
- Sun cream is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (this is usually required to be applied 30-60 minutes before exposure to the sun, and then every 2 hours throughout the day)
- Parents are required to, and regularly reminded to apply sun cream before their child attends nursery during the summer months



- Parents are requested to supply light-weight cotton clothing for their children suitable for the sun, with long sleeves and long legs
- Staff will make day-to-day decisions about the length of time spent outside depending on the strength of the sun; children will not be allowed in the direct sunlight between 11.00am – 3.00pm on hot days unless adequate shade can be provided.
- Children are encouraged to drink cooled water more frequently throughout sunny or warm days and this will be accessible both indoors and out.
- Children are made aware of the need for sun hats, sun cream and the need to drink more fluids during their time in the sun.

*Associated Documents:*

- **NONE**