



## 01 Health and safety procedures

### 01.6 Outdoors

- ❖ All gates and fences are childproof, safe, and secure.
- ❖ Our outdoor area is checked via our daily risk assessment each morning, for safety and cleared of rubbish, animal droppings and any other unsafe items before it is used. Staff will pull out any mushrooms that have grown since the previous day. Staff wear rubber gloves to do this.
- ❖ Bushes or overhanging trees are checked to ensure they do not bear poisonous berries.
- ❖ Adults and children are alerted to the dangers of poisonous plants, mushrooms and pesticides.
- ❖ Stinging nettles and brambles are removed.
- ❖ Safety mats are provided under climbing equipment, even when on grass
- ❖ Wooden equipment is maintained safely, put away daily and not used if broken.
- ❖ Wooden equipment is sanded and varnished as required.
- ❖ Broken climbing equipment or outdoor toys are removed and reported to the Manager.
- ❖ Children are always supervised within ratios outside.
- ❖ Children are suitably attired for the weather conditions and type of outdoor activities.
- ❖ The Nursery garden has shade provided by large trees and in hot weather we have a gazebo we can use to give additional shade.
- ❖ Staff encourage children to use shaded areas during Forest School and whilst out in the garden.
- ❖ Children are encouraged to increase their water intake during hot weather.
- ❖ Sun cream (if parents have given permission) is applied and hats are worn during the summer months. Outdoor play is avoided in extreme heat between noon and 3pm.
- ❖ Children who have no adequate means of sun protection, such as a hat, long sleeves and trousers or sunscreen, will not be able to play outdoors in un-shaded areas.
- ❖ Parents should apply sunscreen to their child before their child attends nursery. Staff will assist the child in re-applying sunscreen during the day when necessary.
- ❖ Parents are required to give written permission for sun cream to be applied.
- ❖ Parents are required to provide the nursery with appropriate sunscreen for their children, which is named and handed into staff (not left in bags). It is a minimum of factor 30.

- ❖ If parents have forgotten to apply sunscreen, the nursery will apply Nivea Sun factor 50+ stored in the middle room cupboard. Parents need to agree to this on their child's registration forms found in the Welcome Pack.
- ❖ Children are supervised on climbing equipment, especially younger children.
- ❖ Water play is not left out but is cleared, cleaned and stored after each use.
- ❖ Receptacles are left upturned to prevent collection of rainwater, this is important in areas where there are vermin to prevent urine/faeces contaminating the water. Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied and cleaned before children start playing outside.
- ❖ Sightings of vermin are recorded and reported to the manager who reports to the Environmental Health's Pest Control Department.
- ❖ Outdoor areas that have flooded are not used until cleaned down and restored. Grassed areas are not played on for at least one week after the floodwater has gone.

## **Drones**

If there are concerns about a 'drone' being flown over the outdoor area, that may compromise children's safety or privacy, the Manager will contact the police on 101.

- ❖ Children will be brought inside immediately.
- ❖ Parents will be informed that a Drone has been spotted flying over the outdoor area and will be advised fully of the actions taken by the setting.
- ❖ The police will have their own procedures to follow and will act accordingly.
- ❖ If at any point following the incident, photographs taken by a drone emerge on social media that could identify the nursery or individual children, these are reported to the police.
- ❖ A record is completed in the Notifiable Incident Record unless there is reason to believe that the incident might have safeguarding implications, for example:
  - the drone has hovered specifically over the outdoor area for any length of time
  - there is a likelihood that images of the children have been recorded
  - is spotted on more than one occasion
  - if the Police believe there is cause for concern

Where this is the case, 06 Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults procedures are followed.

## **Further guidance**

[Reportable Incident Record](#) (Alliance 2015)

This policy was adopted by

Abinger Common Nursery

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On

March 2024

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Date to be reviewed

March 2025

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Signed on behalf of the provider



Name of signatory

Mrs Emma Powell

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Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)

Nursery Chair Person

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