**MUNTERCONNAUGHT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**ASSOCIATION CLG**

**SUPERKIDS**

**OUTDOOR PLAY POLICY & PROCEDURES**

**February 2024**

SuperKids recognises the importance of outdoor play and experience for all children. The outdoor environment provides a range of developmentally appropriate, challenging, diverse, creative and enriching experiences for all children.

SuperKids is committed to flowing good practice in all aspects of outdoor play including, but not limited to: maintaining the required staff to children ratio at all times; taking full account of all health and safety guidelines; and ensuring that outdoor play is only carried out in appropriate weather conditions.

In appropriate weather conditions most of the things that can be done inside can also be done outside, for example being told stories, taking part in pretend play, doing art projects and playing with sand or water.

As part of its commitment to equality and inclusion SuperKids will ensure that the relevant outdoor area can be accessed, utilised and enjoyed by boys and girls of all ages and abilities.

This policy is underpinned by the Child care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

**Role of Staff**

* The Manager will hold a planning meeting with staff every term to prepare/review the outdoor curriculum to ensure that the changing needs and interests of children are being facilitated;
* The Manager will decide when the weather conditions are right for outdoor play;
* The Manager will ensure that any grass area is properly cut so that children can run and play freely;
* All staff involved must ensure that all outdoor activities are conducted safely and in the proper manner;
* Staff will observe and support children’s outdoor play, learning and experiences;
* Staff must supervise children properly when outside by ensuring that every part of the area being used for outdoor play can be seen by at least one member of staff;
* Staff will have available to them appropriate equipment/materials to aid the in helping children to use them as a stimulus for creative, imaginative and problem-solving activities; and
* Staff will ensure that children are wearing appropriate outdoor clothing;

**Rules of Outdoor Play**

* Children will be involved in helping to develop rules for when outdoors;
* Appropriate clothing must be worn;
* Outdoor clothing will be removed when coming indoors;
* Children must not open gates or climb on fences;
* Children are made aware that they are not allowed to throw stones or similar objects;
* On relevant equipment there should be a one-way system. Children must go down a slide on their bottoms one at a time. Children are not allowed to climb up a slide; and
* Children will be encouraged to be mindful and respectful of equipment when outside, for example, tidying after the morning session to make sure that the area is equally well presented as a fresh area to explore next day.

**Health & Safety**

* A daily risk assessment of the outdoor area will be carried out and recorded;
* If any part of the outdoor area is deemed a risk or in any way unsafe, this must immediately be brought to the attention of the Manager, who will determine the best course of action;
* A First Aid kit and the role book should be easily accessible to staff at all times during outdoor play;
* All gates must be closed at all times;
* Staff must do a head count and scan the outdoor area to make sure that no child is left behind; and
* Staff must be aware of the importance of positive behaviour management in the outdoor area;

**Hygiene**

* Staff will ensure that children develop an understanding of the health and hygiene routines important after outdoor play;
* A routine of hand washing is implemented when children come in from outdoors; and
* Bacterial wipes will be available at all times.

**Parental Involvement**

* Parents are asked to ensure that children have suitable outdoor clothing with them; and
* Further information will be made available at the parents’ evening before the beginning of the preschool year and staff will be available to answer any queries.