

CAMBO WRAPAROUND

Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING POLICY

Providers must provide access to an outdoor play area or, if that is not possible, ensure that outdoor activities are planned and taken on a daily basis (unless circumstances make this inappropriate, for example unsafe weather conditions). EYFS Statutory Framework 2017

POLICY STATEMENT

At Cambo Wraparound we value outdoor play as an intrinsic part of the curriculum. By ensuring outdoor play is an integral part of our routine, we consciously seek to transmit a positive attitude to the outdoors and enrich the child's understanding of the world around us.

Being outdoors has a positive impact on a child's sense of well being and encourages all aspects of their development. It gives children the freedom to explore, use their senses and find out about the natural world.

We believe that children should begin to take risks and face challenges outdoors. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) fully supports playing outdoors.

We ensure all our children have access to outdoor play every day.

Procedures

At Cambo Wraparound our aims and procedures are:-

- To provide a stimulating, challenging, safe, secure environment for children to play and learn with enjoyment
- To plan outdoor learning experiences which compliment and extend indoor provision and are stimulating and varied
- To ensure children experience a broad and balanced curriculum
- To ensure learning outcomes are of equal importance to those taking place indoors and are planned to extend the children's learning
- To provide space/areas to take part in energetic, noisy, large-scale activities as well as opportunity for quieter, more reflective experiences
- To provide an outdoor play area which has an inviting and stimulating environment supporting learning across all areas and will offer a variety of different activities, eg. a space to develop skills like climbing, balancing, a space to play on wheeled toys, a quiet area to read a book, a place to draw or create patterns with natural materials and a space to dig and a growing area
- To plan for a balance between child initiated activities and adult directed activities
- To plan opportunities for: problem solving, practising skills, conversation, investigation, exploration, inventiveness, creativity and imagination.
- To ensure health and safety at all times, eg. area is supervised, equipment is checked regularly, parents are kept informed of issues, eg. sun awareness, suitable clothing
- Make good use of outdoor space so that children are enabled to learn by working on a larger, more active scale than is possible indoors
- To provide appropriate resources which will inspire children to ask questions and develop their natural interests

- To provide information for parents so that they understand what and how their children are learning outdoors and feel supported in being active partners

The outdoor environment should be:-

- Inviting and stimulating
- Defined for children to understand space
- Carefully planned for
- Monitored and evaluated
- Maintained and replenished
- Safe
- Clean and tidy

Safety

Staff must ensure that the outdoor play areas are safe and secure. All outdoor play equipment is checked regularly and removed if broken or dangerous. It is the responsibility of every member of the Wraparound staff to ensure that the outdoor area is safe and secure before allowing the children into this area.

Clothing

Staff must ensure that all children are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.

For hot weather:

- All children and staff should wear a sun hat
- With parents written permission, sun protection cream with sun protection factor of SPF 15 or more, this should be applied liberally and reapplied regularly
- Children and staff to be encouraged to drink more water when playing outside
- To play in the shade
- Staff should set a good example by applying sun cream and wearing sun hats

For cold weather:

- All children should have an outdoor coat, hat or hood, and preferable gloves or mittens
- If it is wet under foot or raining, children should wear boots or have alternative indoor footwear.

Supervision and supporting children's learning

Supervision of outdoor learning is equally as important as supervision of indoor learning. Staff must ensure that they are interacting with children and supporting children's play and learning appropriately as they would indoors. The safety and security of the children is of the most utmost importance and appropriate staff ratios must be maintained. Cambo Wraparound operates a free flow between indoor and outdoor play, staff ensure that appropriate ratios are maintained.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion (including SEN, and Gifted and Talented)

At Cambo Wraparound we understand that it is crucial to treat all children with equal respect as individuals regardless of age, gender, ability, religion, race and ability. We understand

that it is vital to prevent any obstacles that stop children from playing together. We are aware that each, individual child has his/her own needs and we aim to meet them in an inclusive way. The outdoor area is managed to provide learning opportunities for all abilities. We ensure all children with special educational or additional needs, and those on the gifted and talented register, have provision suited to their needs and where appropriate match their IEP/statement objectives.

Assessment

Outdoor play is monitored in terms of the children's learning. Assessment procedures for outdoor play are the same as those used inside during child initiated play. Any observations and assessments undertaken feed into the children's learning journeys.