

SECTION 4: Best Practice

Outdoor Play

At Stanmore Montessori we are committed to the importance of daily outdoor play and the physical development of all children regardless of their age and stage of development. We provide outdoor play in all weathers. Where possible and appropriate, we make outdoor activities accessible to children with learning difficulties and disabilities to ensure inclusive use of the outdoor area.

We recognise that children need regular access to outdoor play in order to keep fit and healthy, develop their large and fine motor skills, experience learning in a natural environment and access sunlight in order to absorb vitamin D more effectively.

The outdoor areas, both within the grounds and in the local community have a wealth of experiences and resources which help children to develop in a variety of ways, including independence, exploration and investigative skills, risk taking and self-esteem, all of which support children to develop skills now and for the future.

We ensure all areas are safe and secure through close supervision and the use of robust risk assessments and safety checks. Where possible and appropriate, we plan and encourage play that helps children understand and manage risks. This type of play allows children to explore and find their own boundaries in a safe environment with supportive practitioners. Staff are informed of the importance of safety procedures and are trained appropriately to ensure these procedures are followed effectively.

We plan all outdoor play opportunities to complement the indoor activities and provide children with purposeful activities that support and follows individual children's interests. There is a balance of both adult adult-led and child-initiated opportunities to enable children to learn and practise new skills, knowledge and behaviours.

We use this policy alongside the following policies to ensure the safety and welfare of the children throughout their time outside:

- Health and safety
- Sun care
- Lost child policy
- Parents and carers as partners
- Supervision of children
- Safeguarding and Child Protection