

Outdoor Play Policy

At Noah's Ark we have the opportunity to use our onsite garden for play outdoors, this is a secured garden area to the side of the building which is part astro turf and part slabbed to allow for play with different equipment.

We also have an area directly in front of the building inside the main gate where children can play, a slabbed area for bikes etc.

When the garden is being used staff must make sure the gate is kept closed and where needed locked.

When the front of the building is being used for play staff must ensure the main gates are secured to ensure children are safe in play areas.

Prior to children going into either of the play areas a visual risk assessment must be carried out to ensure no risks have developed since the last time the area was used. E.g pests, damage to equipment, litter etc

When using any of the outdoor spaces strict supervision is required as many of the equipment outdoors holds additional risks. We have areas where loose play parts are used which require strict supervision for use. We have toys at height and toys with speed which need monitoring, support and supervision.

Children naturally take more risks in outdoor play due to certain freedoms it has in comparison to the indoors, they will naturally want to run jump etc and this should be encouraged in a safe and secure manner, supported by staff.

There is a lot of equipment around the areas and supervision around equipment is also required. Outdoors is not a time to chill and relax but interact with children, encourage different play and most of all supervise and support to ensure the play is safe.