



## Outdoor Play Policy

### **Policy Statement**

Grace Park Montessori recognizes the importance of outdoor play for all children and it provides a range of developmentally appropriate, challenging, diverse, creative and enriching experiences for children. It is committed to following good practice in relation to ensuring ratios are maintained.

### **Principle**

This policy is underwritten by the *Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations, 2016*.

### **Rationale**

In accordance with the requirements of the *Child Care Act 2016 Regulations*, we provide a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children have access on a daily basis with soft surface and sufficient space for ball playing, climbing and general activity. French doors open directly from the play area to the small garden so that children remain under the visual supervision of a staff member at all times.

### **Standard Procedures**

We provide a range of natural, recycled, and open-ended materials outdoors as a stimulus for creative, imaginative, and problem-solving activities.

Parents are required to provide suitable clothing for outdoors when sending their children to our service.

**Diverse activities** - Our outdoor spaces can be accessed, utilized and enjoyed by children from 2.7 to 6 years and with varied abilities. We provide a safe and secure outdoor area with opportunities for appropriate challenges to facilitate the children's ability to learn about risk and increase their self-management skills. We monitor children's abilities and interests and provide access to spaces, materials, and equipment that stimulates development and learning.

**Weather** - We respond, appropriately, to different weather conditions with guidance to parents on clothing and protection in strong sun, wet weather and cold conditions.

**Health and safety** - A visual risk assessment is carried prior to using the outdoor play area 'checking the grounds' for safety.

**Hygiene** - To develop an understanding of the importance of health and hygiene among the children, a routine of hand washing is implemented when children

come in from outdoors. Antibacterial wipes are used to clean children's hands outdoors if children are consuming food in the garden.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our:

- Outings Policy and Staff Training Policy
- Supervision policy and Child Protection Policy
- Risk Management and Health and Safety Policy
- Staff training Policy

*Jozefa Chrobak*  
Directress

<b>Reviewed on:</b>	<b>14 January 2023</b>
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