**Outdoor Play Policy (EYFS September 2025)**

**Policy Statement:**

At Little Acorns preschool, we recognise the importance of **outdoor play** in promoting children's **physical, cognitive, and social development**. This policy outlines our approach to providing **safe, enriching, and engaging outdoor play experiences** that align with EYFS 2025 guidance.

**Importance of Outdoor Play:**

* Outdoor play provides children with opportunities for **exploration, physical activity, creativity, and connection with nature**.
* Engaging in **active play outdoors** supports **gross motor skills, problem-solving abilities, and social interactions**.
* We ensure that outdoor play is **inclusive, accessible, and developmentally appropriate** for all children.

**Outdoor Play Environments:**

* Our **outdoor play area** is designed to be **safe, stimulating, and age-appropriate**.
* Outdoor equipment and materials are **regularly inspected, cleaned, and maintained**.
* Natural elements are included in our outside and shared garden area to support **sensory exploration and imaginative play**.

**Weather Considerations:**

* Outdoor play will be **accessible in all seasons**, except in cases of **extreme weather conditions** that pose a safety risk.
* Children will be dressed **appropriately for the weather**, as needed.
* Sunscreen application permission will be sought and applied as necessary, following **parents’ preferences and health guidelines**.

**Supervision:**

* **Active supervision** will be provided by staff members to ensure **children's safety and engagement**.
* Staff-to-child ratios will be maintained in accordance with **EYFS regulations**.
* Supervision will encourage **independent exploration** while ensuring **risk management and safeguarding**.

**Risk and Challenge:**

* We provide opportunities for **manageable risk and challenge** to **foster resilience, confidence, and problem-solving skills**.
* Children are encouraged to **assess and navigate risk safely**, with staff guidance.
* Risk assessments are conducted **regularly** to balance **safety and developmentally appropriate challenges**.

**Sun Safety:**

* Sun safety is a priority, and we will:
  + Apply **parent-approved sunscreen** when necessary.
  + Encourage children to wear **hats and protective clothing**.
* Parents will be informed about our **sun protection policy**.

**Outdoor Play Curriculum:**

* Outdoor play is **integrated into the curriculum**, providing **structured and free-play opportunities**.
* Children will have **regular, scheduled outdoor play** sessions to promote **physical activity and well-being**.

**Nature Connection:**

* We will incorporate **nature-based learning** into outdoor play, helping children:
  + Understand the **environment and sustainability**.
  + Develop an **appreciation for wildlife and plants**.
  + Engage in **gardening and outdoor creative activities**.

**Outdoor Safety:**

* Regular **safety assessments** of the outdoor area will be conducted, with **hazards promptly addressed**.
* Emergency procedures, including will be in place for outdoor activities.
* Children will be taught **outdoor safety rules**, such as safe climbing and respecting boundaries.

**Communication with Parents:**

* Any **concerns, allergies, or medical conditions** affecting outdoor play will be discussed with parents.
* Parents are encouraged to provide **weather-appropriate sunscreen, clothing and footwear** for outdoor activities.

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

* This policy aligns with **EYFS 2025**, which places an **increased emphasis on outdoor learning and nature-based activities.**

**Signed:** Chairperson  
**Date:** September 2025