

Outdoor Play Safety Policy

Children attending **Hellokids Childcare Centre** shall play outdoors daily when weather and air quality conditions do not pose a significant health risk. Time planned for outdoor play and physical activity is based on Fraser Health Licensing and Regulations. Outdoor activities shall include structured play (led by the adult caregiver) and free play (not led by an adult).

- **Infant Toddler Group** shall participate in **60 minutes** per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity.
- **2.5-5 Age Group** shall participate in **60 minutes** per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity.

*Hellokids Childcare Centre staff and parents/legal guardians are required to **read and sign** that they understand the following policy:*

- Teach children how to be safe and act responsibly at the park as well as how to correctly use play equipment, and to be aware of potential hazards
- Minimize exposure to harmful UV rays by appropriate scheduling. We might consider staying indoors during the hottest part of the day
- Teach children about safety promotion and injury prevention, to remove items around their neck such as scarves, necklaces, and hood strings before playing on equipment.
- Our staff must be educated with respect to safety promotion, injury prevention and First Responder/First Aid procedures. A staff member with current approved first aid certification, as described in section 23 and Schedule C of the Child Care Licensing Regulation, must be accessible at all times
- When accident or injury occurs, staff will fill out an incident form and require the parent to sign and acknowledge receipt of the report, and given the parent a copy. If the injury is more than an abrasion or minor scratch, the staff must call the parent to inform them of the incident.



- Children are supervised at all times by one or more responsible adult and that staffing ratios specified by the Child Care Licensing Regulation are maintained at all times. Our staff member must be able to move through and see the entire play space.
- At least one staff person will always accompany children into off-site restrooms
- Head count of children must be performed periodically and attendance done before returning to the Centre

BEFORE children enter the play area(s), a thorough daily inspection must be performed. Check the play spaces for garbage, broken glass, animal feces and other hazardous items. Record your findings in the **Emergency Binder** located inside our outdoor backpacks.

Playground Equipment Safety

At playground check for the following:

- Pinch, entanglement, entrapment and fall hazards
- Damaged or missing supports, anchors, or footings
- Loose or missing nuts, bolts, or other fasteners and connectors
- Broken or missing rails, steps, rungs, or seats
- Sharp edges or points due to wear, damage or breakage
- Bending, warping, rusting, deterioration or breakage of any component
- Protective end caps missing from bolts or tubes
- Splintered and deteriorated wood cracks or holes in surfacing materials

ANY ACTIVITY THAT POSES RISK TO CHILDREN SHOULD BE AVOIDED AT ALL TIMES! Few examples:

- Playing near pools, ponds, etc.
- Climbing large rocks
- Running with sticks
- Rough play with peers (pushing, kicking, etc.)



Strangers and Intruder Policy

In the event of somebody unfamiliar attempting to come near children while playing outdoors, the staff should always follow these procedures:

ALWAYS BE POLITE AND PROFESSIONAL. DO NOT LET ANY STRANGER GET CLOSE OR EXCHANGE WORDS WITH CHILDREN!

The staff must follow these steps:

- One staff will gather all children away from the stranger and remind them who is identified as a stranger
- Second staff will then politely approach the stranger and ask that person to explain their presence
- The staff will also keep the manager informed of all such situations immediately
- If the Center manager is nearby, the staff will lead the stranger directly to the manager
- The stranger should be asked to leave immediately with phrases such as “we do not mean to be rude, however our Centre policy does not allow any strangers near our children”
- If the above steps are unsuccessful, the staff will inform the police. Once the police arrive on site, the staff will work directly with them to manage the situation
- All incidents should be reported to parents on **HiMama** daily report system and recorded in the “minor incident log”

The policy will be reviewed by staff prior to commencing employment and annually thereafter. A written record of the review will be signed by the staff as well as the person who made the review, and kept on file for at least two years for the time of entry. All staff are expected to be familiar with and adhere to, at all times, the Centers Policies and Procedures.

