

## **Safeguarding Policy for Nature Explorers at Little Monkeys Cramond**

### **1. Purpose of the Policy**

This safeguarding policy is designed to ensure that the Nature Explorers program at Little Monkeys Cramond provides a safe and enriching environment for children while embracing the benefits of outdoor exploration. We are committed to fostering positive learning experiences through nature-based activities and promoting children's well-being.

### **2. Policy Statement**

At Little Monkeys Cramond, we recognise the importance of allowing children to engage in activities that may involve manageable risks, such as woodwork, exploring the natural environment, and playing in varying weather conditions. Our goal is to create a supportive culture that encourages risk-taking within a safe framework, helping children develop confidence, resilience, and vital life skills through outdoor experiences.

### **3. Aims**

- To create a safe and nurturing environment where children in the Nature Explorers program can explore and take calculated risks.
- To promote children's independence and decision-making skills through thoughtful risk-benefit assessments.
- To ensure that staff are well-equipped to facilitate safe and engaging outdoor activities.
- To involve parents and guardians in understanding and supporting our approach to outdoor exploration.

### **4. Risk-Benefit Assessment**

We implement a holistic risk-benefit assessment model, which includes:

- Evaluating the potential benefits of each activity alongside any associated risks.
- Empowering staff to identify and minimise risks while encouraging children to engage in hands-on experiences.
- Continuously observing children during activities to ensure their safety and well-being.
- Adapting activities based on weather conditions, group dynamics, and individual needs.

### **5. Staff Training and Responsibilities**

All staff within the Nature Explorers program will receive training on:

- The importance of conducting risk-benefit assessments.

- Effectively facilitating outdoor activities that promote exploration and learning while maintaining safety.
- Identifying and responding to children's needs during activities that involve risk.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Closely monitoring children during outdoor activities.
- Encouraging children to express their feelings about risks and make informed choices.
- Documenting any incidents or near misses to foster continuous learning and improvement.

## **6. Encouraging Outdoor Exploration**

We promote outdoor play and learning through the Nature Explorers program by:

- Providing opportunities for children to engage in activities such as woodwork, crafting, and nature exploration using appropriate tools.
- Allowing children to play in diverse natural environments, including mud, rain, and other outdoor settings, to foster their sense of adventure.
- Supporting children's emotional and physical development through experiential learning in nature.

## **7. Communication with Parents and Guardians**

We believe in open communication with parents and guardians regarding our approach to outdoor exploration and risk-taking. We will:

- Inform parents about our risk-benefit model and the rationale behind it.
- Encourage parents to engage in discussions with their children regarding risks, safety, and outdoor exploration.
- Provide opportunities for parents to participate in Nature Explorers activities alongside their children.

## **8. Incident Reporting and Review**

In the event of an incident or injury, staff will:

- Document the details of the incident, including actions taken and lessons learned.
- Review the circumstances surrounding the incident to identify opportunities for improvement.
- Discuss findings with staff and incorporate them into future planning and training.

## **9. Review of the Policy**

This safeguarding policy for the Nature Explorers program will be reviewed annually or sooner if significant changes occur in our practices or regulations. Feedback from staff and best practices will guide the review process.

## **Conclusion**

At Little Monkeys Cramond, we are dedicated to providing enriching outdoor learning experiences through the Nature Explorers program, promoting children's development while ensuring their safety and well-being. Through a positive approach to risk-taking, we aim to cultivate confident, capable, and resilient young explorers.



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