



Clann Aire

Clondrohid Community Crèche & Playgroup,
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Outdoor Policy

Principle

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

Clondrohid Community Crèche Pre-School & after School services recognises the importance of outdoor play and experience for all children. Outside play allows children to express themselves freely and unlike the indoor classroom, there aren't any space constraints meaning the children can jump, shout and explore to their hearts content.

Outdoor play incorporates all four Aistear themes as children will naturally **Explore** and **Think** when playing. Outdoor play can positively benefit a child's **Well Being** as physical exercise can make a child as fit and healthy as they can be. **Communication** is improved as children interact with peers and they will begin to see themselves as capable learners as they assess and take risks, improving their sense **of Identity and Belonging**.

The children in our care are given the opportunity to develop holistically through the various different areas and materials to help them develop in all of their areas of development.

Covered Area: Sand Box with various toys for pouring and filling, Ride along Cars, Construction Materials, Soft Surface. (Weatherproof)

Bicycle and Tricycle Area: Tarmac area with various bicycles and tricycles that are age appropriate.

Tarmac Area: Wheelbarrows, buckets and spades, Stones/Pebbles, buggies, balls, push along cars etc.

Mud

Kitchen: Bark Mulch, Water, Real Life Objects(Pots, pans, kitchen utensils), Sink, Shelves, Stones/Pebbles, Grass, Stepping Stones etc. We supply outdoor waterproof suits to the children when they play in this area so they can experience water play, puddles, muck, messy play in a carefree manner. These suits are washed after use

Playground: Climbing Frame, (always under supervision) Slide, Spring Animals, Train, Spinning Top, Soft Surface.

Playground (After-School): Monkey Bars and Climbing Frame, (always under supervision)

The covered area is shared if the weather is not suitable to allow the children out under the elements. A cleaning schedule is in place when groups are finished in their designated areas before any other pod have access to that area.

Risk Assessments: are carried out daily before we enter our designated area, we always risk assess if we introduce a new outside activity.

Due to our adult /child ratios it would not be best practice to have a Practitioner on their own with a child within a room while the other children enjoy outside play. Therefore we ask all parents that if their child is unable to go outside during the day then maybe you can accommodate us by allowing your child to play in the covered area, because if one child cannot go outside then all the children are unable to, due to our adult child/ Ratios and we feel that this would be unfair on the other children within our care. We would strongly feel that every child should go outside at least once a day even if it is for a short period of time. Please make sure that your child has adequate clothing for the weather conditions either;

Winter time; Warm coat, hat, scarf, gloves

Summer time; Sun hat and light long sleeved top, sunscreen.

Our Practitioners will observe, take part & support the children's outdoor play. Learning experiences are being constantly documented mostly through photographs and shared with their parents through class dojo or child paths. All of these photographs form each child's learning journey while they attend our services.

Our outdoor areas can be accessed from each room, utilised and enjoyed by the children of all ages and abilities. We provide safe and secure outdoor care with opportunities for appropriate challenge to facilitate the children's age & ability to learn about risk.

Play pods have become the new normal for us now so, the outside areas are time tabled and rotated so that all of the children get opportunities in all of the outdoor areas over the weeks, children will only interact within their own play pod.

A cleaning schedule is in place when groups are finished in their designated areas before any other pod have access to that area.

This policy links with our:

- Outings Policy
- Risk Management
- Health and Safety
- Protection against the elements policy

This policy was adopted by: Clondrohid Community Crèche, Pre-School & After-School services

Date: Jan 2021

Signed by: _____

On behalf of the Management, Staff & Parents