

Outdoor Play and Play Area Policy

Children will have daily opportunities for outside play, weather permitting. If the weather is not conducive to outdoor play, other opportunities will be offered to ensure large motor skill opportunities during the day. The play area will meet all requirements of the American Disabilities Act and all school property, including the outdoor play area, are in a smoke free zone. A fully equipped first aid kit will be readily available during outdoor play.

Staff will select material and equipment that will support the curriculum, help meet program goals, and foster the achievement of desired outcomes for children.

In cold weather, the children will wear dry and layered clothing that will protect them from the cold. In hot weather, the children will be encouraged to play in the shade. Parents will be reminded to have the children wear appropriate sun-protective clothing and/or to apply SPF 15 (or higher) sunscreen. It is the policy of the Eastford Readiness Council to only apply sunscreen that has been provided by the parent and if it has been requested in writing. Sunscreen must be clearly marked with the student's name.

The staff does not apply insect repellent of any kind. When public health authorities suggest it, the parents may apply it a home.

The children will be protected from excessive cold, heat or other environmental or air quality issues. The school will use the local news agencies for regular monitoring of weather conditions. For extreme situations, the school will utilize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association alert system. For environmental air quality alerts, the local Department of Health or Fire Department will notify the school. The school principal will notify the teaching staff.

The program will ensure the facilities are free from harmful animals, insects, pests and poisonous plants. Pesticides and herbicides are only used according to the School Board policy. Whenever possible, the least hazardous means are used to control potentially dangerous animals or plants.

Sandboxes will be constructed to allow for proper drainage. They will be covered when not in use. The staff will ensure that sand is clean and replaced regularly.

If at any time water play is part of the program, all precautions are taken to ensure communal water does not spread infectious diseases.

- * Children will not drink the water.
- * Children with open sores on their hands will not be allowed to play in the water.
- * Fresh potable water is provided for each group of children.
- * After the activity has ended, the water will be drained.

The findings of an assessment by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector are documented and available on-site. The assessment documents that:

- * The equipment is safe and prevents children from ages 2 through kindergarten from injury.
- * Through remedial action, the program has corrected any unsafe condition, found in the latest assessment.
- * An inspection and maintenance program has been established and is performed on an ongoing basis.
- * The outdoor area accommodates abilities, needs and interests of each age group the program serves.