

ECD Walking Policy for outside the school grounds

Written by: K Swanborough
Approved by: ECD

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History of review:

Nov 2017 – Anja Toddington

Jan 2018 – Anja Toddington (with a view to provision for 3-year-olds)

Date for next review: Jan 2020

As part of our Early Childhood Pedagogy and our weekly rhythm, each kindergarten class spends one morning a week walking outside the school grounds. This allows the children to experience the natural world and seasons more fully, it stimulates play and social interactions, and encourages physical activity. By walking in varied terrain the children are provided with movement challenges that build their physical confidence and stamina, this promotes the development of their gross and fine motor skills, they learn to balance, scramble, climb and jump.

Procedure when walking:

- When walking outside the school grounds the adult to child ratio will be at least 1:8, with at least 2 adults present.
- The reception office is to be informed when the class leaves the site and when it is due to return, making sure the register for the Class is with reception.
- One adult will walk at the front and one at the rear of the body of children when walking. Hi Viz jackets to be worn by the adults.
- When walking along busy roads, the children will walk in pairs holding hands on the same side of the road. If it is deemed safe by the teacher on very quiet lanes, the children may let go of hands, as long as there is an adult at the back and front of the group.
- Adults are to ensure that the group stays close together and does not get spread out.
- Adults will remain vigilant at all times for vehicles approaching.
- When a vehicle approaches all of the class will go to one side of the lane (into a lay-by if possible) and stop. The class will stand still until the vehicle has passed by safely.

- Due care is taken to shut any gates and avoid walking on any crops.
- Once the picnic site has been reached and the children are playing, they will be made aware of the teacher's boundaries.

Provision for 3-year-olds needing to attend on walk-days

Although as a rule we only invite children to come on walk days once they attend all 5 mornings and we encourage younger children to start off with 3 or 4 mornings in Kindergarten, we increasingly encounter family situations where a 3-year-old needs to attend on walk days, because their parents are working all week or on that particular day.

3-year-olds tend to get more tired than older children, have extra toileting needs and sometimes may need carrying. The needs at both ends of the 3-7 age range are sometimes hard to reconcile.

Some 3-year-olds manage well on walk days, while others struggle, especially in the winter months. As with other situations around managing a Kindergarten morning, we will consider each case individually and work together with parents to find a suitable solution. Such a solution could be for example:

- If the family's needs are already known before they start KG, the child will be put into a Class that has their walkday on a day when the child can stay at home if possible.
- The child attends a child minder on walk days until they are old enough to manage the walk.
- The child is picked up from the walk day destination (Chestnut Orchard on Rattery Lane or Water Lane off Velwell Lane) by a parent or carer before the group walks back to school.
- A suitable wagon is taken on the walk which the 3-year-old can sit in when getting tired.

If a suitable solution can't be found, the school reserves their right to ask the family to make other arrangements for their child on walk-days.

Controls:

- Relevant risk assessment to be carried out.
- The teacher must feel that the outing can be undertaken safely, in view of the needs and capacities of the individual children and the weather conditions also.
- The teacher is to take a copy of the register with them with the relevant consent forms and emergency contact details for each child. A mobile phone is to be taken and a small first aid kit.
- All of the staff present on the walk know the procedures for 'lost children.'
- A regular head count is performed, when leaving the school grounds, once at the picnic site and before leaving to return to school.
- At least one staff member going on the walk will be a qualified first aider.

- Copy of Consent Forms with emergency contact details to be held by the office.

Information/advice/guidance:

Please see Risk assessments ECD file.

References:

Procedure for lost children in ECD