

## All Weather Protection Policy

Health and Social Care Standards:

*1.32 As a child, I play outdoors every day and regularly explore a natural environment*

*2.24 I make informed choices and decisions about the risks I take in my daily life and am encouraged to take positive risks which enhance the quality of my life.*

*5.19 My environment has plenty of natural light and fresh air, and the lighting, ventilation and heating can be adjusted to meet my needs and wishes.*

*5.21 I am able to access a range of good quality equipment and furnishings to meet my needs, wishes and choices.*

As an outdoor nursery, Stramash endeavours to host all of its sessions outdoors as far as possible so that children can organically experience all weathers, seasons and the days cycle. Stramash empowers staff to provide suitable protection for the children in the session and for themselves in all weathers through inhouse training, provision of suitable resources and through effective communication with families.

In accordance with the guidance given in ***Out To Play*** (2018)<sup>1</sup>, Stramash Staff will monitor weather predictions from the Met Office and make considerations for provision needed.

Stramash staff will ensure an up to date version of the Stramash Gear Guide is available for parents/families - a document that offers advice about what protection parents/families should provide for their child's sessions as the seasons change.

### Sunny/hot weather

Parents/carers should ensure they provide:

- A suitable sun hat and sunglasses;
  - Sun hats with good coverage of the child's neck and nose are ideal
- A bottle of suncream to the nursery;
  - If a child has any skin condition that may adversely react to certain sun creams, parents should label a bottle of suncream to be used for their child only. This should be kept in their bag
  - Staff will apply suncream periodically throughout the day
- A refillable water bottle;
  - Staff will encourage children to drink frequently throughout the session and are able to top up water bottles as needed

---

<sup>1</sup> [Out To Play - Practical guidance for creating outdoor play experiences in early learning and childcare \(2018\) Care Inspectorate](#)

Note: Stramash sites will carry limited spares of these items.

Sun creams, as per NHS guidelines should have:

- a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30 to protect against UVB
- at least 4-star UVA protection

Stramash staff will use more sheltered areas of the site in sunny/hot times of the year or will otherwise ensure that there are suitable shelters set up throughout the site for children and staff to rest and cool down in the shade - particularly when eating. Stramash staff will monitor the wellbeing of the children during sunny and hot days to avoid overheating.

### Cold/wet weather

Parents/carers will be given advice to ensure that children are appropriately dressed to spend a session in wet or colder weather - guidance is also provided in the Stramash Gear Guide about thermals, suitable layers, a waterproof outer layer and cosy footwear.

Parents/carers should ensure that the child's spare clothing reflects the need for layers and thermals in case of a change of clothes. This also includes spare gloves, scarves, hats or buffs. Parents/carers should let staff know if they have provided hand warmers to their child.

Stramash sites will carry spare waterproofs, gloves and hats.

For the colder periods of the year, Stramash sites are equipped with cosy dry spaces such as cabins and tents. These areas are always accessible and are heated with use of a stove so that children and staff can rest and warm up. Staff may be able to provide cooking opportunities during cold weather to prepare warm foods such as soup.

Stramash staff will pay particular attention to each child's well being during the colder periods of the year to ensure comfort and quality of experience.

### Bug spray/midge repellent

At various points in the year, it becomes necessary to use bug spray or midge repellent to avoid irritation and bites. Parents/carers are requested to provide a bottle of insect repellent for use by the nursery - smidge or bug soother is preferred unless not suitable for their child. Staff will apply bug spray/midge repellent regularly throughout the session to ensure comfort.

### Supporting Families

Stramash recognises the need for families to provide the appropriate gear, and acknowledges this may be difficult for some families who may have low incomes or financial difficulties. Where this is the case, the parent/carer should contact the Team Leader in confidence, who will offer support and arrange for use of Stramash gear.

*For more information about weather protection, please see the Adverse Weather Policy.*