

Indoor Space Policy

Health and Social Care Standards:

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

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.*

5.20 *I have enough physical space 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.*

5.22 *I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment.*

As an outdoor nursery Stramash believes in the fantastic opportunities for resilience, learning and play when playing outdoors in all weathers, all seasons and at all times of the daylight cycle. In this way, we strive to be outdoors as standard.

However Stramash can often come to times throughout the seasons where being outdoors is not the best option - for example: during storms, heavy ongoing blizzards or extreme temperatures. This is what can be described as extreme weather. Each site will have a contingency plan in place to cover the eventuality that the environment is no longer best fit during certain weather cycles or other environmental factors. *For more information, please see Stramash's "When to use an Alternative Site" Policy.*

Stramash prides itself in being responsive to all children in our care, and we respond to each child in a way that is meaningful to them - this can mean that some children might need some respite from the weather, or some shade, or some time away from the big group.

There are sheltered spaces throughout the site where children can independently go to relax, play and warm - for example most sites have a tent space. Alternatively in summer, there are cool spots set up with plenty of shade. This is in keeping with the guidance document **Space To Grow** (2019)¹.

There is also the opportunity to use indoor space in all sites - such as cabin space, yurkie space or inside a building. These spaces are well ventilated and the temperature and lighting can be adapted to suit the circumstance.

¹ [Space To Grow: Indoor/Outdoor Settings. Guidance for creating high-quality experiences and opportunities for children in indoor/outdoor settings \(2019\) Care Inspectorate](#)

Use of the indoor space:

Each site may have a different set up for their indoor space, and certain protocols in place to ensure the children and the space are well cared for. For example, there may be only a certain number of children able to play in one space at a time, or children may be required to remove their outdoor gear before entering.

Children will be supervised at all times by a suitable number of staff when using indoor space.

Cleanliness:

Stramash sites follow guidance for cleanliness as per the Health Protection Scotland document ***Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings*** (2018)². The indoor spaces must be kept in a tidy and safe state at all times. Staff should ensure the floors are suitably cleaned after each use. Staff should actively support children with keeping the indoor space tidy by tidying up resources when finished. *For more information, please see the Stramash Cleaning Pack.*

Maintenance:

If there is a function of the room that is unsafe, or making use of the indoor space difficult (ie broken items, bulb has blown etc) the issue should be dealt with immediately and the Team Leader/Senior Practitioner informed.

Eating:

When children need to eat indoors, then a designated area will be set aside for handwashing and eating away from active play areas. Staff should use table cloths if the tables are not easily wipeable (ie wooden). After the children have finished eating, the area should then be fully cleaned to prevent any cross contamination.

Environment:

The indoor space should match the Stramash ethos present in all outdoor spaces;. Any indoor space should be an extension of the play opportunities available outdoors: utilising loose parts, open-ended play and encouraging exploration and investigation.

Ideally the indoor space adapts and changes as the children's interests do. There should be a strong feel of the children's space throughout the cabin so displaying children's art work, creations and adventures is encouraged.

² [Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings \(Day Care and Childminding Settings\) \(2018\) Health Protection Scotland](#)

Sleeping:

Typically the indoor space may be used as a sleeping area for children. It should not be used as a play area at the same time. *For more information, please see Stramash's Sleeping Policy.*