

Stramash After Dark Policy

Health and Social Care Standards:

2.25 I am helped to understand the impact and consequences of risky and unsafe behaviour and decisions.

4.25 I am confident that people are encouraged to be innovative in the way they support and care for me.

4.27 I experience high quality care and support because people have the necessary information and resources.

5.16 The premises have been adapted, equipped and furnished to meet my needs and wishes.

5.17 My environment is safe and secure.

Stramash acknowledges that as sessions can run into evening time that staff and children will experience Stramash sessions in the dark - in particular in the winter. Stramash strives to provide a safe and enriching environment where children experience weather and day cycles in a healthy and explorative way. By default, Stramash sessions will not divert to an indoor space as a result of darkness - but as a response to the needs and wellbeing of those in that session. In accordance with the guidance given in ***Out To Play*** (2018)¹, Stramash ensures certain preparations are in place to ensure children and staff are happy, warm and safe in darker hours.

Lighting

Stramash sites provide suitable lighting for the darker hours - including head torches for staff and children, torches to explore with, lanterns and flood lamps for wider viewing. Staff will ensure these lights are powered, charged and maintained for safe use. Staff will ensure the access points for parents/carers are suitably lit.

Staying in contact

Each Stramash site is equipped with walkie-talkie radios to ensure staff can keep in contact with each other with ease. Staff will ensure the walkie-talkies are charged and maintained for safe and effective use. A walkie-talkie will always remain in the office to ensure there is effective indoor/outdoor communication

Staying together

The spread of the group may be minimised during darker hours to ensure that staff can visibly see all of the children. This will be explained to the children as a matter of safety. There will be enough adults with the group to ensure quality and safe experiences.

Keeping warm/dry

As with during the lighter hours, staff and children should come to Stramash dressed for the weather. There is no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothing. If children have gotten wet or are beginning to feel cold, staff can help the child to put on warm layers. Parents/Carers should ensure children have enough hats, scarves & gloves to wear throughout the session - and in particular in the dark hours.

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

Stramash sites are equipped with fire lighting areas such as stoves or campfires to provide heat and to cook some warm food/drink. Stramash sites also have hand warmers that can be used.

Indoor space

Each Stramash site has indoor spaces that can be used. Each site has outdoor warm and dry spaces children can use such as tents or shelter spaces. There are also typically heated indoor spaces such as cabins that can be utilised for some indoor play if that is what is judged as best interests for the children and staff.

For more information, please see the Stramash After Dark Procedure.