

Stramash After Dark Procedure

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.

Prior to Dark Hours

- Staff should ensure lights/lanterns/head torches are all fully charged/working
- Ensure all staff have a working walkie-talkie
- Ensure parents/carers will be able to get staff attention at the gate (walkie talkie/doorbell available)
- Staff should ensure that children and staff have enough warm and dry layers - bring out box of spares/hand warmers if necessary
- Staff should tidy away any resources not in use to prevent trip hazards
- If appropriate, set up a fire (see fire lighting procedures)
- Where possible, finish nappy routines prior to dark hours

Approaching Dark Hours

- Set up flood lamps/lanterns - remembering the access point for parents/carers too
- Ensure children's belongings are together and in an easily accessible place (ie near the gate)
- Hand out torches/head torches to staff and children
- Safety brief for children about staying together - discuss ideas of activities to do etc
- Discuss plan with staff members - what do the children want to do/use of indoor space
- If appropriate, prepare cosy outdoor shelter - fire on etc

During Dark Hours

- Staff to keep in contact using walkie-talkies
- Staff to be vigilant of children's happiness and wellbeing - are they warm enough? Do they feel safe?
- Staff to explore opportunities to play outdoors where possible, but use of indoor space is an option

Remember: playing in the dark can be fun, with lots of opportunities for learning that won't happen in the day time!

Ideas for fun dark time games:

- Glow in the dark painting
- Glow in the dark toys
- Torch/light hunts
- Shadow puppets
- Star gazing
- Watch the sunset
- Nocturnal animal spotting
- Make lanterns

CfE Experiences and Outcomes:

I have experienced the wonder of looking at the vastness of the sky, and can recognise the sun, moon and stars and link them to daily patterns of life. (SCN 0-06a)

I enjoy playing with and exploring technologies to discover what they can do and how they can help us. (TCH 0-01a)

While learning outdoors in differing weathers, I have described and recorded the weather, its effects and how it makes me feel and can relate my recordings to the seasons. (SOC 0-12a)