



22 Outdoor Policy

At Summertime, we believe outdoor play is an important part of every child's learning, development and wellbeing. We provide children with regular opportunities to enjoy **free-flow outdoor play**, whatever their age or stage of development.

What can children enjoy outdoors?

Our outdoor environment provides opportunities for children to:

- Explore our natural garden, hunt for minibeasts and discover different textures and smells.
- Enjoy our mud kitchen, sand, water and messy play.
- Develop physical skills using climbing equipment, bikes, balls and other resources.
- Make choices, develop confidence and independence, and learn to cooperate, share and take turns.
- Experience appropriate risky play, helping them develop skills, confidence and an understanding of how to keep themselves safe.
- Or relax with a book in the summerhouse.

Babies are offered outdoor experiences during both morning and afternoon sessions. When weather conditions are suitable, babies may also sleep outdoors in evacuation cots, following our safe sleep procedures.

Keeping children safe

Children are supervised by knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff throughout outdoor play. Staff are positioned around the garden to ensure all children are appropriately supervised, with additional vigilance around water and other higher-risk activities.

We carry out ongoing safety checks and risk assessments. Gates remain secured, and the outdoor area and equipment are regularly checked for hazards. Equipment is used in ways that are appropriate to each child's age, development and abilities.

We believe there is a difference between putting a child at risk and allowing them to take appropriate risks. Children need opportunities to challenge themselves, test their abilities and learn from manageable risks within a safe and supportive environment.

What should my child wear?

We do our best to keep children clean, but outdoor play can be messy! Please send your child in comfortable clothing that you are happy for them to get dirty, along with suitable outdoor clothing such as waterproofs and wellington boots when appropriate.

Thank you for supporting us in giving children the freedom to explore, play, learn and enjoy the outdoors.

Cathy White

Manager

September 2026