

Outdoor Play & Weather Permitting

The NC Division of Child Development requires that children in licensed child care programs spend time outdoors every day, weather permitting.

“Weather permitting means almost every day, unless there is active precipitation, extremely hot or cold conditions, or public announcements that advise people to remain indoors due to weather conditions such as high levels of pollution, extreme cold or heat that might cause health problems (Notes for Clarification, Environment Rating Scales).

The following standard is recommended:

Caring For Our Children, National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs (2nd edition) © 2003.

Standard 2.009, “Weather that poses a significant health risk shall include wind chill at or below 15 degrees F and heat index at or above 90 degrees F, as identified by the National Weather Service.”

Children shall play outdoors daily when weather and air quality conditions do not pose a significant health risk. Outdoor play for infants may include riding in a carriage or stroller; however, infants shall be offered opportunities for gross motor play outdoors, as well.

Air quality conditions that pose a significant health risk shall be identified by announcements from local health authorities or through ozone (smog) alerts. Such air quality conditions shall require that children remain indoors where air conditioners ventilate indoor air to outdoors. Children with respiratory health problems such as asthma shall not play outdoors when local health authorities announce that the air quality is approaching unhealthy levels.

Our program policy will use the common sense approach to meet the health and safety of each child when deciding to go outside.

Warm weather:

- Children shall be well-hydrated and shall be encouraged to drink water during the outdoor activity.
- Clothing shall be light-colored, lightweight, and limited to one layer of absorbent material to allow the evaporation of sweat.
- Children shall be protected from the sun by use of shade, sun-protected clothing, and sunscreen with UVB-ray and UVA-ray protection of SPF-15 or higher with permission to administer the sunscreen.

Cold weather:

- Clothing shall be layered and dry. (coats, hats/mittens/gloves).
- Teachers shall check children’s extremities (exposed skin) for maintenance of normal color and warmth at least every 15 minutes when children are outdoors in cold weather.

We are not equipped nor are we staffed to care for children who are unable to play outdoors.