



Managing Extreme Weather Policy



The
Little Green Frog
Nursery & Pre-School

Principles of our approach:

The Little Green Frog Nursery aims to provide consistent and reliable childcare for families and we have an extreme weather policy in place to ensure our nursery is prepared for all weather conditions that might affect the running of the nursery such as floods, snow and heat waves.

If any of these impact on the ability of the nursery to open or operate, we will contact parents via email from the nursery software system.

We will not take children outdoors where we judge that weather conditions make it unsafe to do so.

Flood

In the case of a flood, we will follow our Critical incident policy to enable all children and staff to be safe and plan for continuity of care.

Snow or other severe weather

In order to be open and accept children into nursery there must be the correct number of staff. When disruptive weather is forecast staff members must cooperate with each other to swap shifts etc so that the majority of staff coming into nursery are able to travel reliability and safely.

When driving conditions are disrupted and potentially dangerous staff must make their own risk assessment based on their own individual situation and **only set off if they feel safe to do so.**

Families should be aware that the staff team may be delayed on their way to nursery or unable to get to nursery and be advised that they will only be able to leave their children at nursery when we have the correct number of staff available in the nursery building.

Families should also be aware that during disruptive weather conditions there may be staffing changes so children may be welcomed to nursery by someone who is different to their care bear.

Disruptive weather may mean that some work places close for the day and so some families may have a parent/carer available to look after their children at home. In this case the family should not bring their children to nursery and thus ensuring that there are enough places for parents who are working.

In the event that it is not possible to safely open the nursery on the day in question, the person in charge will inform families via a message on the nursery software system before 7.30am.





Planning ahead:

The person in charge of nursery will check the weather forecast for the following day.

If the weather is likely to cause disruption to traffic the person in charge will:

- Ensure that two people who are able to travel safely to nursery are in place to open nursery at 7.30am the following morning.
- Check travel arrangements for all other members of the staff team who are on the rota for the following day.
- Work with staff team to ensure that the nursery is staffed by people who can travel safely to work. This may mean that some team members swap shifts.
- If there are not enough staff members available who can travel safely to nursery the person in charge should plan to close the nursery if necessary and inform the parents of the closure at around 7am the following morning when the extent of the disruption is known.

If the person in charge is satisfied that arrangements are in place so that nursery can safely open in the morning despite disruptive weather, they will send the following message to families:

The predicted weather for tomorrow morning may cause disruption to traffic and travel but arrangements are in place so that nursery can open as usual tomorrow (including for early drop off).

If you find that a parent/carer in your family does not have work due to the weather conditions and is able to stay at home with your children please do not bring your children to nursery. This ensures that nursery places are available for parents/carers whose work is still ongoing.

If you are able to stay at home with your children please email nursery to let us know so that we can make plans accordingly.

Please be advised that staffing changes have been made and be prepared for the following:

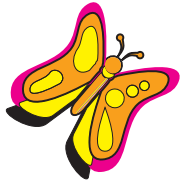
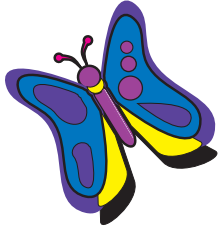
- ***The person greeting you and your child may not be your normal care bear.***
- ***Staff may be arriving at nursery later than normal and it is helpful if families delay their normal drop off time too.***

Should our staffing arrangements change and we are no longer able to safely open you will receive a message before 7.30am via the nursery software system.

Heat wave

We are committed to ensuring that all children are fully protected from the dangers of too much sun and UV rays as severe sunburn in childhood can lead to the development of malignant melanoma (the most dangerous type of skin cancer) in later life.

Staff will make day-to-day decisions using guidance from the weather and UV level reports about the length of time spent outside and find the right balance to protect children from sunburn by following the NHS guidance.





We follow and use the following procedures to keep children safe and healthy in the sun:

- Children will be offered a nursery sun hat to be worn outside in sunny weather. Families may send the child's own sunhat to nursery and children may wear this if they choose.
- Nursery will supply factor 50 suncream, suitable for children and sensitive skin, to be made available to all children.
- Staff will apply suncream when the children are preparing to go outside and reapply at regular intervals. Staff will make day-to-day decisions about the length of time spent outside depending on the strength of the sun (UV levels); children will not be allowed in direct sunlight between 11.00am – 3.00pm on hot days from March to October, following NHS sun safety advice
- Parents/carers may supply their own choice of suncream and staff will apply this instead if required. Staff must be aware of the expiry date and discard sunscreen after this date. Sun cream containing nut-based ingredients will not be allowed in the setting
- Consent for sun cream is given by parents/carers at first acclimatisation visit on the general nursery consent form
- Parents are requested to supply light-weight cotton clothing for their children suitable for the sun, with long sleeves and long legs
- Children's safety and welfare in hot weather is the nursery's prime objective so staff will work closely with parents to ensure all appropriate cream and clothing is provided
- Shaded areas are provided to ensure children are able to go out in hot weather, cool down or escape the sun should they wish to or need to
- Children are encouraged to drink cooled water more frequently throughout sunny or warm days and this will be accessible both indoors and out
- Children are made aware of the need for sun hats, sun cream and the need to drink more fluids during their time in the sun
- Key persons also work with the parents of their key children to decide and agree on suitable precautions to protect children from sunburn, taking into account individual skin types and tolerance to sun exposure. This includes children with sensitive skin and those with darker skin tones, who may still be at risk of sun damage.

Vitamin D

Sunlight is important for the body to receive vitamin D. We need vitamin D to help the body absorb calcium and phosphate from our diet. These minerals are important for healthy bones, teeth and muscles.

We also promote the NHS recommendation to parents that all young children should still have vitamin D drops, even if they get out in the sun.

