



Wee Green Spaces

Supporting wellbeing and learning in nature

Aims and Objectives

- To give children time to experience free play in a natural setting.
- To help children develop a connection with the natural world and to learn about nature and how to care for it.
- To learn the practicalities of how to be outside: personal safety, hygiene, coping with weather and different terrains.
- Support attention, listening, speech, language and communication in a quiet, natural environment.
- To offer experiences which are different to that which happens in the outdoor space back at the setting. The visits aim to develop children's resilience, confidence and other aspects of wellbeing outlined in Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

Guidance Documents

- Health and Social Care Standards (Scottish Government, 2017)
- Realising the Ambition (Scottish Government, 2020)
- GIRFEC: SHANARRI Indicators (Scottish Government, updated 2022)
- How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare (Education Scotland, 2016)
- Curriculum for Excellence (Scottish Government, 2010)
- My World Outdoors (Care Inspectorate, 2016)
- Out to Play (Scottish Government, 2019)

Before you begin your adventures...

Staff Ratio

Site Visit

Permissions:
Parents and
Landowner

Staff
Discussions

Risk Benefit
Assessments

Parental
Support

What do staff carry?

Staff bags:

- Register containing children, staff and location details.
- Mobile phone
- First aid kit
- Change of clothing for children.
- Soap and hand towels
- Story book (optional)
- ID charts and nature booklets
- Tarpaulin, rope, strings and clips.
- Toilet tent and travel potty with absorbent liner bags and PPE (infection control)
- Carrier bag to carry any waste back to the setting.
- Bill the Owl





What do the children carry?

Wee Green rucksack:

- Sitting mat – carrier bag with a folded newspaper inside. Taped to make waterproof.
- Hat, gloves, scarf, or sun hat depending on weather.
- Clipboard, paper and pencil.
- Magnifying glass
- Lunch- provided by catering staff.
- Warm water in a fruit-shoot bottle for handwashing to help with independence.
- Small bottle for water/juice



How we stay safe on our walk!

- Ratio 1:3
- Staff always walk at the curbside.
- Children hold hands and look after each other.
- Always cross at a crossing when available.
- Cross the road with your own group of children, not in a line.
- Do not cross when cars stop for you. Wave them on with a thank you and wait until the road is clear.

Our Magic Number is four!



Attention, listening, speech, language and communication. From a noisy walk...

Using the environment

- Road signs
- Traffic
- Street names
- Buildings
- Speed limits
- Children's knowledge

The topics are endless



...to the peace of
an inner city
sanctuary!



A typical day at Wee Green- Mathematics





Numbers in the environment!

Once they are pointed out, the children find numbers everywhere.



Building a shelter- so much learning!



- Physical skills
- Problem solving
- Mathematical language
- Imaginative play
- Team work
- Language
- Attention and listening

and so much more.

And little bit of science!



Now you see it...

Now you don't – the magic of science!



Shadows

- The sun
- I wonder?

Safety at Wee Green





Risk taking, building confidence and self esteem



Handwashing and eating in nature.



Endless Possibilities Outdoors!

- Wee Green Spaces provides our children with a vast and diverse range of learning, most of which is child led.
- Where we go, no one knows. Let's see where the children and nature takes us on our Wee Green learning journey!
- There are so many exciting new adventures and learning experiences ahead.
- We will have fun whilst securing improved outcomes for our children, families and staff.

What we have observed

- Friendships are formed which continue back at nursery.
- Improved relationships between children and staff.
- Improved attention, listening and communication skills.
- Improved levels of engagement.
- Increased stamina and general fitness.
- Improved levels of self-esteem and independence which support wellbeing.
- Happy and enthusiastic children who ask everyday when we are going back on another adventure!