

Outdoor area checklist



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

- This checklist must be used alongside the Early Years Outcomes and Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Children must have daily access to the outdoors; the following checklist can be used to review your outdoor area.
- Consider the range of ages and stages of all the children in your setting.
- Consider the learning styles of boys and girls.
- Practitioners need to interact by talking, showing, introducing, explaining, encouraging, challenging and motivating the children.
- Your provision should allow for long periods of uninterrupted play outdoors.
- You should have clear rules and boundaries for children and staff when outdoors.

Date: _____

Does your outdoors have	Yes/no	Comments/what can we do next?
Open space for free movement? For example, running, rolling, climbing.		
A quiet comfortable space? For example, shade, shelter, cushions and material for den making.		
Accessible all weather clothing for adults and children?		
Resources that children can reach, fetch, move, construct and dismantle?		
Opportunities to investigate the natural world? For example, smells, insects, weather.		
Open ended, versatile resources, loose parts? For example, sticks, tyres, rope, crates, material, logs, boxes.		
Places to dig with a variety of tool? For example, mud/sand/pebbles/compost.		
A variety of planting, growing and gardening? For example, herbs, vegetables, flowers.		
A range of levels and surfaces? For example, slopes, steps, pebbles, grass.		
Relevant active role play opportunities? For example, mud kitchen, car wash, roadworks, super heroes with props and mark making materials..		
Space for large scale mark making/writing?		
Practitioners who explain safety, encourage challenge and appropriate risk-taking?		