

Quality Improvement Framework

Section 3 – Teaching and Learning

Subsection: Outdoors

Guidance Notes	Reflective Questions	Resources	Your Evidence
<p>Outdoor Environments</p> <p>‘Providers must provide access to an outdoor play area or, if that is not possible, ensure that outdoor activities are planned and taken on a daily basis’.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DfE Statutory Framework for the early years foundation stage 2017</p> <p>Although many providers may operate from properties that have no outside space, it is important that children experience outdoor play opportunities regardless of their facilities. For many children outdoors is their preferred learning space. Also, for some children it may be their only opportunity to play outside.</p> <p>Research has shown that particularly in boys, use of language could be up to five times greater than indoors! This may be because the outdoors is less formal, and children display more confidence when playing outside.</p> <p>There is strong evidence to show that time spent learning outdoors can help prevent obesity, support positive and mental health and help with myopia which is an eye disorder causing short sightedness. It is recommended by health experts that children should access up to three hours of physical play every day.</p> <p>The outdoor environment should be safe with rich learning opportunities. No matter how small the space is, or if you have to pack away each time, it can be made interesting and stimulating.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is no outdoor environment, what outdoor activities do you provide on a daily basis? • Do you have risk assessments in place for the outside and complete a daily site check? • Are children allowed outside in all weathers? • Do you provide waterproofs and wellies for when it’s raining or snowing? • Do you have areas for physical play, investigation and growing and planting? • How often do you have snack or lunch outside or a picnic in the park? • Do you plan opportunities for offsite visits, e.g. to the local park or woodland area? 	<p>Q Cards</p> <p>Outdoor Play</p> <p>Training</p> <p>EED team training programme</p> <p>Useful Links</p> <p>Ideas for outdoor resources:</p> <p>The Empowered Educator</p> <p>The Imagination Tree</p> <p>Naturally Learning</p> <p>Resources and templates</p>	<p>Guidance note: Remember to date your evidence to allow you to revisit and review relevance.</p>

If the physical layout of the building permits, play should flow seamlessly between inside and outside, allowing the children to follow and develop their ideas without disruption.

