

Adverse Weather

At Little Miracles Day Nursery we have an adverse weather policy in place to ensure our nursery is prepared for all adverse weather such as floods, snow and heat waves.

If any of these incidents impact on the ability of the nursery to operate, we will contact parents via phone and email.

Flood

In the case of a flood we will follow our critical incident procedure to enable all children and staff to be safe and continuity of care to be planned for.

Snow

If high snowfall is threatened during a nursery day then the Nursery Manager will take the decision as to whether to close the nursery. This decision will take into account the safety of the children, their parents and the staff team. In the event of a planned closure during the nursery day we will contact all parents to arrange for collection of their child.

In the event of staff shortages due to snow we will contact all available off duty staff and/or agency staff and group the children differently until they are able to arrive. We will not operate the nursery outside of the legal ratio and will request that parents stay with their children until our staff arrive. Should we not be able to maintain the ratio due to weather conditions we may take the decision to close the nursery.

Heat wave/ Sun care

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

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

- Children must have a clearly labelled sun hat which will be worn at all times whilst outside in sunny weather. This hat will preferably be of legionnaires design (i.e. with an extended back and side to shield children's neck and ears from the sun) to provide additional protection
- Children must have their own high factor sun cream labelled with prior written consent for staff to apply. This enables children to have sun cream suitable for their own individual needs. Staff must be aware of the expiry date and discard sunscreen after this date
- Children need light-weight cotton clothing suitable for the sun, ideally 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
- Staff will make day-to-day decisions about the length of time spent outside dependent on the strength of the sun

- Children will not be out in the direct sunlight between 11.00am – 3.00pm on hot days
- Children will always have sun cream applied before going outside in the hot weather and at frequent intervals during the day
- Children are encouraged to drink cooled water more frequently throughout sunny or warm days
 - 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
- Shade will be provided in the form of trees to ensure children are able to cool down or escape the sun should they wish or need to
- Practitioners will work with all parents to decide suitable precautions to protect children from burning, including more sensitive skins types and those that may be more tolerant to the sunshine, e.g. black and/or Asian colouring.