

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Childcare Services
Safety during Outdoor Play Policy

Childcare Services at Queen's understands the importance of a healthy active lifestyle in line with healthy eating habits.

To promote this our aims are:

- To provide outdoor resources which will be managed in order to provide opportunities for safe outdoor play and learning.
- To enable children to learn to use space safely and effectively.
- To develop gross motor skills through use of large equipment.
- To develop social skills while playing outdoors in a group of peers.
- To develop co-operative play skills through games and sharing equipment.
- To provide fun and enjoyment.
- To provide opportunities for children to explore their environment.
- To provide opportunities to older children for road safety awareness.

Procedures put in place to facilitate these aims:

- There is an outdoor Risk Assessment that is to be completed by each group prior to the children accessing the outdoor play area.
- Before the children go outdoors the staff will inspect the area and remove any litter which may be there. This can include broken glass and the proper precautions should be taken.
- All the outdoor play surfaces are safety rubber surfaces.
- Staff will assess the safety surface and choose appropriate equipment i.e. running activities and trampoline are not suitable when the rubber is still wet.
- Where there is large, static outdoor play equipment there are additional assessments which staff will undertake prior to equipment being used.
- Adequate child/staff ratios/supervision will be maintained.
- Equipment will be appropriate to the age of the children using it.
- Children using an outdoor area will be grouped according to age.
- Opportunities will be taken for walks to the park to experience seasonal changes and for related activities.
- Opportunities will be taken for visits to the shop, museum and library to promote road safety awareness for older children.
- Further Risk Assessments are completed for off site outdoor opportunities.