

Adverse Weather Policy

At Sunny Day we have an adverse weather policy in place to ensure our nursery is prepared for all weather conditions that might affect the running of the nursery such as floods, snow and heat waves.

If any of these incidents impact on the ability of the nursery to open or operate, we will contact parents via phone/email/facebook/website/twitter and local radio.

We will not take children outdoors where we judge that weather conditions make it unsafe to do so.

Flood

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

Snow or other severe weather

If high snowfall, or another severe weather condition such as dense fog, is threatened during a nursery day then the duty 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 or other severe weather we will contact all available off duty staff and/or agency staff and group the children differently until they are able to arrive. If we are unable to maintain statutory ratio requirements after all avenues are explored we will contact Ofsted to inform them of this issue, recording all details in our incident file. If we feel the safety, health or welfare of the children is compromised then we will take the decision to close the nursery.

Heat wave

During a heatwave we will take the following action:

- check that windows can be shaded, preferably by curtains with pale, reflective linings rather than by metal venetian blinds and curtains with dark linings, which can make conditions worse – if these are fitted, check that they can be raised
- check that there are no problems opening windows while acknowledging security considerations
- Increase outside shading, in the form of shutters, shades, trees or leafy plants; reflective paint can also assist in keeping the building cool. Increase outside greenery, especially in concreted areas, as it increases moisture content and aids cooling as a natural air conditioner
- create cool rooms or cool areas with appropriate indoor and outdoor shading, ventilation, the use of indoor and outdoor plants and, if necessary, air conditioning
- ensure that staff know which rooms are the easiest to keep cool and which are the most difficult, and review the distribution of children according to those most at risk
- thermometers will be monitored regularly in each room in which the children spend substantial time
- electric fans have been installed in all rooms to provide some relief
- provide water sprays

- ensure that water and ice are widely distributed
- plan to adapt menus to cold meals (preferably with a high-water content, such as fruit and salads)
- ensure the children are wearing light, loose-fitting cotton clothing
- be aware that nappies will add to a child's discomfort during hot weather
- ensure children sleep in a well-ventilated room with light bedding