

Supporting Outdoor Play

The outdoors helps children to **explore, play and respond** with an ever-changing environment while developing their **physical** and **emotional wellbeing**. The outdoors also plays a vital part in enabling children to **connect, respect** and **care** for their environment.

In addition to setting up and providing access to the **outdoor environment**, **practitioners play a central role supporting** children's **play, curiosity** and **engagement** with the outdoors.

Consider:

Being a Nature Play Partner

Enter their world by **tuning into children's fascinations** and **invitations to play**. Support children's connection with the environment through modelling **awe and wonder** and embracing what nature has to offer **in all weathers!**



Encouraging Adventure and Challenge

Allow children to **learn at their own pace, explore** and **problem-solve**. **Risky play** can be a great way for children to **test their limits** and **learn through trial and error**. As practitioners, we can support this by helping **tune children into potential risk** while encouraging them to figure out how to **behave, respond** and **adapt** their play.

Being an Active Observer

Take time to observe **what children are interested in** and **how they are interacting** with the outdoors. Enable play to be **uninterrupted** and **wait to be invited** into their play. Ensure you value the flow of play and respond to children's play ideas **when they are ready**. This will allow children to **think things through for themselves** and to take their learning in new directions.



Modelling Taking Care of the Environment

Help children develop deeper connections with the outdoors by **supporting children to take care** of their environment. Model how to **look after nature** and why it is so important to enable children to further **connect and nurture their natural surroundings**.