

February 2010

Re : **OUTDOOR PLAY**

We are writing to inform you of an exciting time at Portico at Moss Bank.

As some of you may be aware, it is on our action plan to improve our outdoor learning environment for the children this year. We are very excited that we are attending training which is going to do just that. It is called **“the stepped approach”** and will help us over the coming year look at, evaluate and improve our outdoor area, access to it, resources and staff interactions.

Why be outdoors ?

The early years foundation stage states that children must have access to outdoors. Outdoor play has always been important to us, and we do use the area every day, but not to it's full potential.



What does this mean in practice?

- Our outdoor play policy will be adapted to meet our new way of working
- A working document to follow our progression through the training and the project
- **Continuous access to the outdoors**
- New resources / outdoor clothing
- Improved outcomes for children

- **Learning outdoors is different to learning indoors – it offers children opportunities to explore, and learn in a safe, secure yet challenging environment**
- They will use their whole bodies and their senses
- **It offers space and freedom, and resources and activities on a large scale**
- **They will experience weather and be able to investigate the natural environment**
- All children learn differently and we appreciate that some children, including many boys will learn better outdoors, and will naturally want to be outside
- **Children will become independent in choosing where they want to be.**



Resource collections

Water play – tubes, guttering, funnels, buckets, brushes

Building and construction – crates, trays, wooden planks, large tubes, rope, carpet

Den play – wooden frames, poles, material, bread crates

Role Play – picnics, garage, fire fighters, camping

Digging and Growing
Outdoor Games

We will have an area set up for outdoor clothing which will be shared so **children can become independent in dressing for which activity they want to take part in .**

Risk assessments will be carried out on all new equipment.

As an inclusive setting all children will have access to the outdoors. We see no reason for a child not go outdoors infact children with colds are better outside in the fresh air.



Risk Assessments

Children will be doing things like running, balancing, climbing, sliding, pulling, pushing, digging, hiding, swinging. **They will get wet, and they will get muddy.** They **need to be able to have these opportunities to practice skills that they will use for life.** **Rules and boundaries will be set together** and staff ratios will be kept at all times so that **children are supported in learning how to use resources safely and will learn to manage their own risk with adults help.** If you have any worries or concerns, please speak to your child's key person.