



## **Adverse Weather Policy**

### **Kiddie Capers Childcare**

#### **1. Policy Statement**

The safety, welfare and wellbeing of children, staff and visitors is our priority at all times. Adverse weather conditions can present risks to health, safety and the normal operation of our settings. This policy outlines the measures that will be taken during periods of extreme weather.

All settings will take all reasonable steps to minimise risks, maintain a safe environment and comply with relevant health and safety requirements.

#### **2. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children, staff and visitors from weather-related risks.
- Ensure appropriate precautions are taken during periods of extreme weather.
- Provide clear guidance on operational changes and decision-making.
- Ensure we're able to remain open safely wherever possible.
- Ensure business continuity while prioritising health and safety.

#### **3. Responsibilities**

##### **Senior Leadership Team**

The Senior Leadership Team will:

- Monitor weather forecasts and official weather warnings, alongside guidance issued by the local authorities.
- Provide updates and communicate any changes to parents/carers promptly.
- Decide whether restrictions on activities or temporary closure are necessary.
- Ensure adequate staffing levels can be maintained safely.

### **Manager or Deputy Manager**

Managers or Deputy Managers (in the Managers absence) will:

- Conduct risk assessments during periods of adverse weather related to their setting.
- Follow guidance during periods of adverse weather and communicate this to their teams.
- Report any concerns to their Area Manager.

### **Staff**

Staff will:

- Monitor children's wellbeing and report concerns immediately.
- Implement control measures outlined in this policy.
- Ensure children remain appropriately supervised at all times.

### **Parents and Carers**

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Dress children appropriately for weather conditions.
- Provide suitable hats, sun cream and weather-appropriate clothing where needed.
- Ensure emergency contact details remain up to date.
- Check communications from the setting regarding closures or operational changes.

## **4. Extreme Hot Weather and Heatwave Procedures**

### **Definition**

For the purpose of this policy, extreme hot weather refers to periods where temperatures are significantly above seasonal averages, including any heatwave alerts issued by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) or Met Office.

### **Risks Associated with Hot Weather**

Children in the early years age group are particularly vulnerable to:

- Dehydration
- Heat exhaustion
- Heatstroke
- Sunburn
- Fatigue and irritability
- Reduced appetite
- Disrupted sleep patterns

## **Preventative Measures**

### **Hydration**

The setting will:

- Ensure children have constant access to cold drinking water.
- Encourage frequent drinks throughout the day.
- Monitor younger children to ensure they are drinking regularly.
- Contact parents/carers if a child refuses fluids or shows signs of dehydration.

### **Clothing**

Children should:

- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing.
- Wear a sun hat during outdoor play in line with our sun safe policy.
- Have appropriate spare clothing available if required.

### **Sunscreen**

- Parents/carers should apply sunscreen before arrival.
- Staff may reapply sunscreen during the day where parental consent has been obtained.
- A minimum SPF 50 sunscreen is recommended.
- Sunscreen should be applied before outdoor activities and reapplied according to manufacturer instructions.

## **Outdoor Play During Hot Weather**

Version Number: 1.0

Kiddie Capers Childcare recognises the importance of outdoor learning; however, activities will be adapted during high temperatures.

Our settings will:

- Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.
- Schedule outdoor activities during cooler periods where possible.
- Limit outdoor play during peak UV hours (typically 11:00am to 3:00pm).
- Utilise shaded areas whenever outdoors.
- Increase access to water and ice play where appropriate.
- Shorten outdoor sessions when temperatures become excessive.

Outdoor activities may be suspended entirely if risk assessments identify an unacceptable level of risk.

### **Indoor Environment**

Staff will:

- Keep rooms well ventilated unless the outdoor temperature is higher than the indoor temperature.
- Ensure any air conditioning units are used in line with the guidance issued.
- Use blinds, curtains and shades to reduce indoor temperatures.
- Move activities to cooler areas where possible.
- Avoid unnecessary physical exertion.
- Monitor room temperatures regularly and report any concerns to their Area Manager.
- Identify the coolest area in the nursery for sleeping children and ensure that sleep checks are carried out more frequently in warmer weather.

### **Monitoring Children's Wellbeing**

Staff will observe children for symptoms including:

- Excessive sweating
- Flushed skin

- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Lethargy
- Nausea
- Reduced urine output

Any child displaying symptoms of heat exhaustion will be moved to a cool area, provided with fluids, closely monitored and parents informed.

If heatstroke is suspected, emergency medical assistance will be sought immediately by calling 999.

## **5. Low Temperatures, Snow and Ice**

### **Risks Associated with Cold Weather**

Cold weather may increase the risk of:

- Slips, trips and falls
- Hypothermia
- Frostbite

### **Preventative Measures**

#### **Outdoor Areas**

Before opening and throughout the day, staff will:

- Inspect entrances, pathways and outdoor play areas.
- Grit icy surfaces where necessary.
- Remove snow from key access routes where practical.
- Restrict access to unsafe areas.

Areas that cannot be made safe will be cordoned off.

#### **Clothing**

Children should arrive with suitable winter clothing, including:

- Warm coat
- Hat

- Gloves or mittens
- Suitable footwear
- Additional layers where required

Staff will regularly check that children are warm and comfortable.

### **Outdoor Play in Cold Weather**

Children may continue to access outdoor learning where conditions remain safe.

The setting will:

- Reduce the duration of outdoor activities during very cold weather.
- Increase opportunities to warm up indoors.
- Ensure children are appropriately dressed.
- Avoid outdoor activities where temperatures or wind chill present significant risk.
- Cancel outdoor play if snow, ice or severe weather conditions create unacceptable hazards.

### **Snow and Ice Procedures**

Where significant snowfall occurs, the Senior Leadership Team will assess:

- Accessibility of each setting in conjunction with the Manager or Deputy Manager onsite.
- Safety of outdoor areas.
- Ability of staff to travel safely.
- Availability of essential utilities, including heating and water supplies.

A decision may be made to:

- Open as normal.
- Open with reduced services.
- Delay opening.
- Close the setting.

Parents/carers will be informed as soon as practically possible using Family and phone calls.

## **6. Closure Due to Adverse Weather**

Our settings will make every reasonable effort to remain open where safe to do so.

Closure may be necessary where:

- The premises cannot be maintained safely.
- Heating, water or electricity supplies are compromised.
- Travel conditions present a significant risk.
- Staffing levels fall below statutory requirements.
- Official advice recommends closure.

The decision to close will be made by the Senior Leadership Team.

Parents/carers will be notified via:

- Family
- Telephone

## **7. First Aid and Emergency Response**

Staff will be familiar with:

- Signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.
- Signs and symptoms of hypothermia.
- Procedures for obtaining emergency medical assistance.
- Reporting and recording incidents via Family or the Accident Log Book (staff).

Any adverse weather-related incidents will be recorded in accordance with the setting's accident and incident procedures.

## **8. Equality and Inclusion**

The setting recognises that some children and staff may be more vulnerable to the effects of extreme temperatures, including:

- Babies and very young children
- Children with medical conditions
- Pregnant staff members
- Individuals with disabilities or additional needs

Individual risk assessments may be undertaken where necessary.

## **9. Related Policies**

This policy should be read alongside:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Sun Safe Policy
- Safe Sleep Policy