Garden Play and Equipment Policy

It is well known that exercise is vital to aid the physical development of young children and to encourage them to continue a healthy lifestyle into their adult years. We encourage the children in our care to join in all sorts of different physical activities and provide a range of resources to make it fun and enjoyable. In the garden we have a range of large outdoor equipment. Whilst this provides lots of opportunities for developing new physical skills and enjoyment it also brings danger. Children need to learn about danger and risk taking, however in order to make the garden a safe environment and to reduce the risk of possible accidents we have put the following procedures in place:
All children will be supervised by a responsible adult at all times, though there are little dens that mean they may go out of sight they will never be out of hearing.
Children will be taught the dangers of the equipment in a way that is suitable for their stage of development and understanding.
Children will be encouraged to take turns and share equipment.
The equipment will be checked/cleaned before use for animal (e.g. bird) faeces etc.
The equipment will be checked for wear and tear/ damage regularly and withdrawn from use if faulty.
Children will be encouraged to participate but will not be made to do any activity that they are uncomfortable with, for example the climbing frame.
**Trampoline** - All children will be supervised at all times on the Trampoline by a responsible adult. The trampoline may only be used when the safety netting is in place. The safety netting and the trampoline will be checked regularly to ensure it is in a good condition. All children using the trampoline must listen and follow any instructions, failure to do so may result in them no longer being permitted to use this piece of equipment. The trampoline will only be used by the recommended number of children.
If you have any concerns regarding your child using any of the equipment, please do discuss them with me.
**Sandpits** - We only use sand that is suitable for play and purchased from a recognised source. We will sieve for foreign bodies and rinse through with a diluted sterilising agent if applicable. We will ensure the sandpit has adequate drainage to prevent the sand from becoming water logged. Insects can live in damp sand and may bite or sting children. We will ensure the sandpit is covered when not in use to prevent it being used as a litter tray by cats and other visitors to the garden. We will ensure that the children are closely supervised whilst playing in the sandpit. We will teach them about keeping the sand low to avoid it getting in their own and others eyes.
**Skipping Ropes** – Are not generally used in the setting however we may use something similar for a specific activity but this would be supervised at all times in case of strangulation.

**Paddling Pools/Water table** - Children can have great fun using these and it can also support their development in a variety of ways. However, there are safety issues when children play with water and we have therefore put the following procedures in place:
Children will never be left unsupervised with water, if a child needs support elsewhere or the doorbell rings etc then another adult will be asked to support. If Jenny is alone then children will all come out of the pool.
Jenny will take her phone outside with her if she is alone. We will take enough towels and spare clothes outside.
The pool will be immediately emptied when not in use, the water table will be left all day however will be monitored. The pool will be refilled each day when in use. Generally, the tuff spot will be used as a splash pad rather than a proper paddling pool.
We will support the children to learn about water safety.
We will never make a child go into the pool if they don't want to but will provide activities they can do around pool area so they aren’t excluded.
We request that parents inform if their child has a verruca on their foot so measures can be put in place to prevent them from spreading.
If toddlers and babies are in nappies we will request parents provide some form of swimming nappy to prevent the pool from becoming contaminated.
Emergency procedures are in place and we maintain our first aid certificate.