



Midlothian

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HEAD TEACHER

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BONNYRIGG PRIMARY SCHOOL
COCKPEN ROAD
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EH19 3HR

19th March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Bonnyrigg Nursery is committed to providing the children with the opportunity to further their learning and development both in the indoors and outdoors environment.

"All children and young people should enjoy high quality play opportunities, particularly outdoor free play in stimulating spaces with access to nature, on a daily basis in school, nursery and early learning and childcare."

Play Strategy for Scotland 2013

"Children's experiences and their capacity to learn and develop are enhanced by being able to experience nature first hand. Simply being outside in fresh air is beneficial, but when children are helped to actively explore nature themselves the dividends for improving outcomes are exponential. If staff help children to develop their own free-flow play activities outdoors and learn through nature, then we are seeing children flourish. Many children become more confident, co-operative, calm and content. And for some children it can be transformative."

My World Outdoors, Care Inspectorate

At Bonnyrigg Nursery we believe it is essential that all children have daily access to the outdoors whether this be through use of the garden or through outings and trips.

All children will have opportunities to access the garden in all weathers. Parents are asked to send suitable outdoor clothing for their child every day. The type of clothing sent needs to reflect the weather. Staff will ensure that children are appropriately dressed before allowing them to play outdoors. We have some spare waterproof suits that can be used by children if necessary.

It is difficult to refuse a child access to the garden as the room is designed to allow free access between the two environments.

As the outdoor environment is an integral part of the nursery day if a parent feels that their child is too unwell to go outside then they are deemed not well enough to be at nursery.

Please note, whilst we encourage all children to make the most of the outdoors, children are never forced to go outside.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Findlay

Caroline Findlay
Depute Head Teacher

