



Playground Safety Policies and Procedures

It is the policy of Waterloo Co-operative Preschool to use the following procedures to ensure the safety of all children when on the playground:

- Either one classroom volunteer and a teacher, or two teachers, must be on the playground with the children at all times.
- There will be no reduced ratios on the playground.
- Preschool and Toddler classes may not be on the playground at the same time.
- Teachers will check with each other to ensure there is a phone with them. Volunteers will refrain from using personal cell phones unless for an emergency.
- Anyone who is not within sight of the group will have a walkie talkie and a teacher will carry the other one.
- Staff will have a backpack containing attendance, emergency medications, emergency contact information, allergy listing, and dietary restrictions with them on the playground. Water will always be made available at all times for drinking.
- Allergy sheets will be posted in the shed.
- Staff/volunteers support positive experiences and interactions, socialization, promote inclusion and actively supervise and maintain safety.
- Fence height is minimum 4 feet and the gate is securely latched at all times.
- All parents are responsible for sending their child(ren) to preschool dressed for outdoor play. This includes the application of sunscreen.
- The teacher(s) will take attendance as the children arrive and do head counts before and after every transition.
- When the children are ready to come inside, a teacher will lead the children down the steps and along the wall following our [Transition Policy](#). Another parent or volunteer will stand at the purple door if using that entrance, or stand at the parking lot corner if using the front entrance.
- Take specific action to ensure fingers are not pinched in the door by having a volunteer stand holding the door open.
- Plan and communicate your route and duties of each adult in advance to ensure safety as the children make their way around the building.
- See [Program Statement](#) for more information regarding safe transitions from playground to class. All adults ensure head counts are conducted constantly during transitions (i.e. before leaving, as they leave, at the purple door, and once inside).

If the playground is vandalized and unsafe we will contact the police to report, and stay off it

until the School Improvement Officer or the church can rectify.

If it is safe to still use we will cover areas and fix them as soon as possible.

The children will remain indoors due to the following conditions:

- Moderate to heavy rainfall
- For Toddler classes: A temperature of -10 Celsius or below, including the wind chill factor
- For Preschool and KinderPrep classes: A temperature of -20 or below, including the wind chill factor. Going outside at a temperature below -15 will be at the discretion of the teacher, providing the weather and environment seem safe and children are comfortable and dressed properly
- If there is ice on the majority of the playground surface, stairs, or walkway
- A significant snowfall, such that the snow is too deep for the children to play
- If there is any condition that may potentially cause harm, we will offer active play opportunities in the classroom or in the hallway

If there is an air advisory, outdoor activities will be modified to reduce exertion. Toys are to be kept clear of traffic areas to prevent tripping. Classroom volunteers will report any potential hazards or dangers to the teacher.

No children are permitted in the shed where toys and equipment are stored at any time.

The Ministry of Education requires two adults be present if the class goes outside or to the gym. If there is only one teacher on duty, with no classroom volunteers or student volunteers present, the class will remain in the classroom. If/when the group separates into two smaller groups to aid in safe transition, any children with Epi pens/emergency plans will remain with a teacher (who will also have the backpack/emergency kit). The volunteer on duty can aid in the safe transition to/from the playground and then return to the other group still outside.

[“How does learning happen?”](#), Ontario’s pedagogy document for the early years, describes how “children thrive in programs where they can engage in vigorous physical play in natural outdoor spaces and playgrounds that present manageable levels of challenge. In addition to providing physical benefits, active play outdoors strengthens functioning in cognitive areas such as perception, attention, creative problem solving and complex thinking. While these environments need to be safe it is also important for them to provide children with interesting opportunities for a reasonable degree of risk taking.” Staff refer to How Does Learning Happen - 4 foundations - Belonging, Engagement, Expression and apply strategies to embrace it. Well-Being.

If a child has been injured on the playground:

1. Administer first aid as appropriate
2. Contact emergency services if appropriate
3. Notify the parent
4. Stay in ratio
5. Follow Individual Emergency Plans
6. Follow ISPs

7. Document Injuries on Playground Injury log
8. Fill out an accident report
9. Prevent reoccurrence - use Classroom Review sheets in attendance binder to monitor or set up preventative measures/monitor trends.
10. Follow the [Serious Occurrence policy](#) if appropriate.

Policies that relate to the Playground Safety Policy:

- Transitions, Safety and Supervision of Routines Procedure
- [Active Play Policy](#)
- [Serious Occurrence Policy](#)
- [Program Statement](#)
- [Implementation Policy with Prohibited Practices](#)
- [Responding to and Reporting Child Illness and Injury Policies](#)
- [Volunteer Parent, Volunteer and Student Policy](#)

Revised: March 2023 by Britney Stewart

Approved By: Britney Stewart (President) on March 30, 2023

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