**Sticky Fish pre-school.**

**Outdoors policy.**

This policy should be read in conjunction with our Health and Safety, and Equal Opportunities policies. Our Outdoor policy relates to all of the Every Child Matters outcomes and meets the Early Years Foundation Stage welfare requirements.

At Sticky Fish pre-school we understand the importance of providing safe, outdoor play daily to enhance the children’s learning, curiosity and physical wellbeing, we will encourage this by:

* Carrying out regular risk assessments for both the outdoor area and outings.
* The outdoor area will be secured at all times whilst the children have access to it.
* Children will be able to move between the indoor and outdoor play areas independently.
* Parents/Carers will be made aware that the outdoor learning environment will be available daily, regardless of weather conditions (unless staff agree that conditions pose a danger to the children.)
* It will be the carer’s responsibility to provide appropriate named clothing for the weather conditions. These should be appropriate for the child to independently put on and remove. Sticky Fish has a number of wet weather jackets and trousers that are available for use, but are kept at Sticky Fish.
* Carers will be expected to apply sunscreen prior to their child attending sessions.
* A member of staff will always be present in the outdoor area whilst children are there.
* Equipment within the area will be safe and fit for purpose, but also allow for controlled risk taking.
* Parents/carers signed consent for trips throughout the year are sought as soon as possible to their child starting at Sticky Fish pre-school.
* On trips to the local area, (within a quarter of a mile radius from the setting),a minimum ratio of 1-2 will be met, with at least 1 adult being a qualified member of staff who will ensure they have a fully operational mobile telephone with them and basic first aid provision. Reasonable adjustments to this ratio will be made to ensure that every child has the opportunity to participate.
* On major outings parents or adult carers will be responsible for their own children, and their transport requirements. Where arrangements are made for assisted places staff will be expected to maintain a 1-1 ratio and a specific outings consent form will need to be completed.

 UPDATED: Oct 2021 DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: oct 2022

 SIGNED: LIZ TOMLINSON (MANAGER)