

# **Outings Policy (Updated EYFS September 2025)**

## **Policy Statement:**

At Butterflies Nursery, we recognise the value of **outings** in enriching children's learning experiences and **connecting them with their community and natural environment**. This policy ensures that all outings are **safe, well-planned, and developmentally appropriate**, aligning with **EYFS 2025 guidance**.

## **Purpose of Outings:**

- Outings provide children with opportunities for **new experiences, hands-on learning, and social development**.
- Activities will support children's **physical, emotional, and cognitive development** in line with the EYFS curriculum.
- We encourage **exploration, independence, and curiosity** by introducing children to different environments, people, and cultural settings.

## **Planning and Preparation:**

- Outings are **planned in advance**, considering children's **ages, needs, and interests**.
- A **risk assessment** will be conducted before each outing to **identify potential hazards and implement safety measures**.
- Outings will be designed to be **inclusive and accessible** for all children, including those with **special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)**.

## **Parental Consent:**

- Parents or legal guardians will receive **detailed information** about each outing in advance, including:
  - The **destination**
  - The **mode of transportation**

- Expected **timings**
- Any **special requirements** (clothing, packed lunch, etc.)
- **Written parental consent** will be required before each outing.

### **Ratios and Supervision:**

- We will **strictly follow the EYFS** staff-to-child **ratios** during outings to ensure **safety and appropriate supervision**.
- Extra precautions will be taken in **busy locations**, such as **public parks, museums, and transport hubs**.
- Children will be encouraged to use the **buddy system** for added safety.

### **Safety Measures:**

- Children will be given **clear safety instructions** before and during the outing.
- Staff will ensure that children:
  - **Stay together as a group**
  - Are **aware of boundaries**
  - Understand **road safety and stranger awareness**
- High-visibility clothing or wristbands with **emergency contact details** may be used for additional safety.

### **Emergency Preparedness:**

- A **fully stocked first aid kit** will be carried on all outings.
- **Emergency contact details** for all children, along with necessary **medications** (e.g., EpiPens, inhalers), will be readily accessible.
- In the event of an emergency:
  - Staff will follow the **designated emergency procedures**.
  - Parents will be contacted **immediately if needed**.

## **Communication:**

- Children will be **engaged in discussions** before outings about the destination, expectations, and safety rules.
- Parents will be kept informed about **outings in advance**, and any specific requirements will be communicated.

## **Cultural and Religious Considerations:**

- Outings will be **inclusive**, ensuring all children feel comfortable and valued.
- Any **dietary or religious considerations** will be respected when choosing destinations and planning meals/snacks.

## **Additional Staff:**

- For **larger groups** or outings with **heightened risk factors**, additional staff or **parent volunteers** may be included to enhance supervision.
- All supervising adults will be **briefed on safety procedures** before the outing.

## **Record Keeping:**

- Records of each outing will be maintained, including:
  - **Parental consent forms**
  - **Risk assessments**
  - **Incident reports**, if applicable
  - **Emergency contact lists**

## **Alternate Plans:**

- **Weather conditions** and **unexpected disruptions** will be accounted for with **backup plans or alternative destinations**.
- If an outing is cancelled, children will engage in an **indoor or alternative outdoor activity**.

## **Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

- The **EYFS 2025 framework** emphasises the **importance of outdoor and real-world learning experiences**.
- Outings are designed to **support holistic development**, integrating **physical activity, problem-solving, and sensory exploration**.
- Our outings policy aligns with EYFS **learning and development goals**, focusing on:
  - **Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED)** through interaction in new settings.
  - **Communication and Language** by encouraging discussions about outings.
  - **Understanding the World** by introducing children to **nature, history, and culture**.
- The inclusion of **risk-taking opportunities in controlled environments** supports **self-confidence and resilience**, as highlighted in **EYFS 2025**.

## **Review and Monitoring:**

- This policy will be reviewed **annually** or more frequently to ensure it aligns with **EYFS updates and best practices**.
- Feedback from **parents, staff, and children** will be encouraged to continuously improve our **outings policy and procedures**.

**Signed:** Chrissie Day

**Date:** 2nd July, 2025