



Outdoor play space checklist

This checklist is a guide to show what can be used as best practice for outdoor play spaces.

You may tick off any of the items below that you would like to see developed at your centre. Studies have shown that outdoor nature play spaces will assist children in developing a greater sense of self, health and wellbeing.

- Water play area
- Seating for parents, carers, grandparents
- Plant selection – robust plants if possible
- Expert advice on soil composition and best plants to use for longevity
- Useable plants – edible, screening, sensory development, bird – butterfly attracting
- Plants reflecting diverse cultures
- Plants for picking
- Trees for climbing
- Wildlife feature- frogs, lizards, grasshoppers, snails, worms
- Domestic animals - chickens, ducks, rabbits etc.
- Seamless transition between indoor and outdoor spaces
- Secure sheltered spaces for children to seek peace
- Plan active, open and quiet spaces
- Have names for your rooms or spaces
Eg. Name rooms after different wildlife: the lizard room, the eagle room or plants such as the bamboo room, the lavender room
- Storage areas close to activities
- Mud/digging patch
- Veggie garden
- Water tank
- Use of plants for borders
- Meeting place/performance area
- Active travelling between activities