

Outings Policy

Statement of Purpose

We recognise the added value that outings bring to the curriculum and the child's learning and development. The local environment offers a wide variety of learning experiences for children through visits to venues such as shops, parks, the library or community centres. Outings outwith the immediate vicinity of the setting to places such as theatres, museums, the seaside or a safari park offer experiential learning that can enhance the curriculum and respond to children's interests. Children should always have an opportunity to learn about the outing beforehand, discuss it afterwards and develop any learning and play ideas it has generated.

Equality of Opportunity

Torphins Playgroup aims to be inclusive at all times. We will ensure that all children have the opportunity to access outings equally. Where a child has physical or learning difficulties, we will ensure extra staff/helpers are allocated and that any additional support required, such as a wheelchair, are made available to allow the child to participate. Venues will be checked in advance to ensure that all children and staff have ease of access. Should a member of staff have a physical impairment which in some way restricts their movement, we will endeavour to ensure that support is put in place to allow them to participate in outings as fully as possible. A record of all outings will be kept on file with the date, venue and participants recorded to ensure equality of access to outings.

Risk Assessment

Staff must seek permission from management for all outings. Local venues which are visited regularly by staff and children will have written risk assessments drawn up and kept on file. These will be reviewed before each outing and amendments made where required to minimise risk. Occasional outings will have the route, venue and travel arrangements risk assessed by a member of staff in advance of the outing date.

Staff planning the outing, in conjunction with management, will consider the risk assessment to ensure that the benefits to children of participating in the outing outweigh any identified risks. Strategies to minimise any risks should be recorded on the risk assessment. One copy of the risk assessment should be taken on the outing by staff and a second should remain in the setting. All adults accompanying the outing should be familiar with the risk assessment before setting out.

We acknowledge that daily life cannot be without risk, for example crossing roads, but that these hazards can be minimised by careful planning and alert adults. Being aware of risk and learning how to cope with it is a valuable life skill for children and part of the learning experience of an outing.

Prevention of Spread of Infection

In order to minimise the spread of infection Torphins Playgroup will follow standard infection control precautions (SICPs) as recommended by the NHS under their infection control policy [*Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings*](#) (Health Protection Scotland, May 2018) and measures taken will be recorded on the risk assessment.

Adult/Child Ratios

Where children are able to walk there should be a maximum of 4 children per adult. Please note this is a maximum and more adults may be required depending on the nature of the outing and risk assessment. Children with physical or learning difficulties will also require more support. Consideration should be given to the type of activity to be engaged in when calculating ratios and this should be included in the risk assessment.

Parents may sometimes be invited to participate in outings. They may have responsibility solely for their own child. They should be briefed carefully on the outing and what the expectations are.

There should always be sufficient staff on outings to allow one to take a child to the toilet or accompany a child to hospital if the need arises, while still leaving another member of staff in charge of the outing. Children should not be left solely in the care of an adult who is not their parent or a member of staff. Groups should be allocated for larger outings with a designated staff member in charge of each group. It is their responsibility to continually check that all children allocated to them are present.

1. Parental Permissions

2.

When a parent enrolls their child in Torphins Playgroup, their permission will be sought to allow the child to go on outings of a local nature to places such as the local shops, park or community centre. This signed permission will be kept within the child's registration form and will allow ease of movement to regular local venues and will apply only to journeys made on foot which do not require the use of transport. Parents will be asked to fill out a separate permission form for all other outings as they arise.

The permission form will request the child's medical information, including any medication needed on the outing, and details of emergency contacts. It will give parents information regarding the date, venue, mode of travel, required clothing and any other specific requirements for the outing. A copy of the signed form will be taken on the outing by the responsible member of staff and another held in the Playgroup. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that all medical information and emergency contacts are kept up to date at all times.

Outings Checklist

The following should be taken by staff on every outing:

- List of participants, including helpers and staff *
- Travel First Aid Kit
- A copy of the relevant risk assessment *
- A copy of each child's parental permission containing medical information and emergency contacts *
- Any relevant medication likely to be needed during the outing
- Spare clothes
- A fully charged mobile phone

* Copies of these documents should also be held in the setting.

Monitoring of this Policy

It will be the responsibility of Manager to ensure that all staff, including new or temporary staff, are familiar with this policy, and to monitor that it is being implemented.

March 2024



Appendix 1
OUTINGS RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

Proposed outing venue:

Date of proposed outing:

When planning an outing the following areas should be risk assessed:	Possible risk	Actions to minimise risk	Risk acceptable (Yes/No)
1. Child Safety			
2. Child Behaviour			
3. Security			
4. Road Safety			

5. Weather			
6. Transport			
7. Outing Venue			

Staff member completing risk assessment: **Title:**



Authorised by: **(Manager)** **Date:**



PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM

Appendix 2

(Staff should complete this section)

Name of group

Full name of child

Nature of outing

Date

Venue

Person responsible for outing

Travel arrangements

Time of departure Expected time of return

Please send the following with your child (food, rainwear etc)

MEDICAL INFORMATION

(Parent/guardian should complete this section)

1. Does your child suffer from any conditions requiring medical treatment including medication? If yes, please give brief details:

2. To the best of your knowledge has your child been in contact with any contagious or infectious diseases or suffered from anything in the last four weeks that may become contagious or infectious? If yes, please give brief details:

.....

3. Is your child allergic to any medication? If yes, please specify

.....

4. Has your child received a tetanus injection? YES/NO

5. Does your child have any special dietary requirements? If yes, please specify

.....

I undertake to inform Torphins Playgroup of any change in the medical circumstances between the date signed and the commencement of visit.

Name, address and telephone number of family doctor

.....

I agree to my child receiving emergency medical treatment, including anaesthetic, as considered necessary by the medical authorities present.

I agree for my child to travel in the vehicle provided on the understanding that both the vehicle and the driver are fully insured, that the vehicle is roadworthy, and that my child uses the appropriate child restraints (seatbelt/car seat) fitted in the vehicle.

Address

.....

Contact telephone number/s for day of outing

.....

I give permission for..... (full name of child) to join the outing to (insert outing destination below)

.....

Name of parent/guardian (Please print)



Signature of parent/guardian

Date