Langa Street Nursery Barefoot Policy

Langa Street Nursery is committed to ensuring that children attending nursery experience a safe early learning and child care environment that is in line with all relevant legislation.

Children at nursery may wish to remove their shoes and or socks. When barefoot, children have a richer sensory experience; children can feel differences between textures and surfaces, make footprints, splash in water and squish mud between their toes. Going barefoot also nourishes, strengthens, and promotes agility in a child’s growing feet, ankles, legs, knees, and hips.

Practice

* Health and Safety Policies that involve the use of regular risk assessment and regular maintenance of premises and equipment are in place.
* The garden is inspected and checked daily prior to children’s access. However, children will be promoted to use appropriate footwear when accessing outdoors.
* Staff have awareness when shoes are necessary and ensure all educators know when children need to have their shoes back on.
* Explain to children using appropriate communication, when and why shoes are required, such as when it's time to go home, or accessing outdoors so they understand when it's okay to be barefoot.
* Staff to encourage children to store shoes appropriately and be aware of which shoes belong to them.
* Staff to be aware of which shoes belong to which child to prevent mix up and shoes being lost
* Staff support children to self-assess/risk assess their area of play and if there are hazards they are avoided
* Ensure walking surfaces are free of hazards at all times by tidying away toys and craft items, mopping up spills, and sweeping away sharp sticks or stones
* Staff to offer opportunities that promote using their feet to discover different sensory aspects
* When breakages occur, the area is immediately closed to children until it is made safe.
* There will be members of staff available at all times who hold a First Aid training to assist when accidents may occur
* An Accident and Incident Recording Book is available during the Nursery day.
* All accidents / incidents involving children are reported to parents / carers
* In the event a fire evacuation children's shoes will be uplifted when it is safe to do so.