

October 2021

## *Sandpits Policy*

Sandpits can provide great play and learning opportunities. They are ideal for:

- creative play — providing a giant building site or a beach scene
- constructive play, using buckets and spades and other resources
- a medium to practice early writing skills and develop fine motor skills.

However, sandpits can also pose several health and safety risks.

This setting will:

- use only sand that is suitable for play and purchased from a recognised source
- regularly ensure that the sand is changed; in between it will be sieved for foreign bodies and rinsed through with a diluted sterilising agent if applicable
- ensure that the sandpit has adequate drainage to prevent the sand from becoming waterlogged; insects can live in damp sand and might bite or sting children
- dispose of spilt sand
- ensure that the sandpit is covered to prevent it being used as a litter tray by cats and other visitors to the garden. Toxoplasmosis can be spread from cats to humans through dirty sandpits, and can harm an unborn child, but is usually a mild illness in children and adults. It causes a rash, swollen glands, fever and feeling unwell
- ensure that children are closely supervised while playing in the sandpit
- teach children about keeping the sand low to avoid it getting in their own and others' eyes.

If you have any concerns about this policy please do not hesitate to contact us.