

Auchinairn Early Years Centre



Barefoot Policy

Auchinairn Early Years Centre 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 are encouraged to wear their shoes and socks. However, 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.

To support this policy;

- Auchinairn EYC has a Health and Safety Policy that involves the use of regular risk assessment and regular maintenance of premises and equipment.
 - The garden is inspected daily prior to children's access.
- There will be at least one staff member available at all times who holds a recognised, current First Aid Certificate.
- All accidents/incidents involving children/staff/anyone within the Auchinairn EYC premises are recorded.
 - All accidents/incidents involving children are reported to parents / carers.
 - Staff will communicate with parents/carers regarding their wishes on their child being barefoot while in nursery.
- In the event of a fire evacuation children's shoes will be uplifted when it is safe to do so.
 - All staff in the garden and playroom will be aware of what children are in their bare feet.

Health and Social Care Standards: 1.19, 1.32, 2.2, 5.17, 5.22

Realising the Ambition: 5.3, 6.3

UNCRC: Article 31

This policy has been reviewed and updated in consultation with parents and staff.

Signed:
Head of Centre

July 2025