



Outside Time 0-5

POLICY / APPROACH

Southern Oregon Head Start provides daily outdoor play opportunities for infants, toddlers and preschool-aged children to promote their health and development. The “outdoor classroom” is designed for children birth to 5 to safely explore and engage in curriculum opportunities in the natural environment with peers and adults. Our program policy is that if your child is well enough to attend school, they are well enough to go outside in a safe and supervised environment. When inclement weather occurs, the children are provided items such as rain boots and warm clothing to support each child’s outdoor play. Head Start families are encouraged to bring an extra set of clothes and appropriate shoes to support their child’s outdoor play. Families also are encouraged to support their child’s outdoor experience by participating in outdoor play activities with their child and the teaching staff.

POLICY COUNCIL APPROVAL: 9/17/2019

BOARD APPROVAL: 9/19/2019

HEAD START PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

1302.31(e)(4) Promoting learning through approaches to rest, meals, routines, and physical activity

Oregon Department of Education Childcare Center Rules:

414-300-0150 (2) Outdoor Space

414-300-0300 1(a), 10 Infant and Toddler Program of Activities

PROCEDURE:

1. Teachers and Specialists will ensure that outside time and outdoor curriculum activities are included daily.
2. Outside time includes intentionally planned activities to meet the needs of each child. Outdoor learning environment & activities will be documented each week on the lesson plan. This should reflect the interest of the children and be changed out with the study/theme (HS and Older Toddlers).
3. Teachers and Specialists will educate families on the importance of outdoor play for healthy child development birth to 5, and plan activities that include both family and staff engagement in outdoor play.
4. Centers will ensure that outdoor supplies will be available for children during inclement weather (e.g. rain boots, jackets and warm clothing).

5. Centers will follow guidelines regarding air quality and temperature advisories issued by the Safety Resource Manager.
6. **EHS:** A separated safe space must be available for non-mobile infants
7. **EHS:** If a center is combining outside times amongst classrooms, they must adhere to the youngest age ratio (Infant Young Toddlers 1:4, Older Toddlers 1:5) and follow the correct OCC licensing square footage permitted per child.