Outside Time 0-5

POLICY / APPROACH:

Southern Oregon Head Start provides daily outdoor play opportunities for infants, toddlers and preschool 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.

HEAD START PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARD:

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

PROCEDURE:

1. Teachers and Specialists will ensure that outside time and outdoor curriculum activities are included in every lesson plan.

2. 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.

3. Centers will ensure that outdoor supplies will be available for children during inclement weather (e.g. rain boots, jackets and warm clothing).

4. Centers will follow guidelines regarding air quality and temperature advisories issued by the Safety and Compliance Manager, and the Health and Nutrition Director.