

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Top tips: Motivating staff to go outside

By encouraging your team to embrace being outdoors, you're supporting children's learning and development as well as their physical health and emotional well-being.

- **Lead by example:** Actively participate in outdoor play and model enthusiasm and enjoyment. If necessary, use a rota to ensure outdoor play is fairly shared, so no staff member is always assigned to your outdoor area
- **Highlight the benefits:** Support staff in understanding the value of outdoor play by sharing research, ideas and good practice
- **Provide resources:** Provide all-weather clothing such as waterproof coats and warm fleeces and store this so that it is readily available near your outdoor area
- **Access your space:** Ensure your area is suitable for all weathers with shelter and cover from the sun, rain and wind
- **Adapt outdoor time:** During extreme weather, plan shorter but more frequent outdoor sessions to maintain comfort without sacrificing outdoor play opportunities
- **Celebrate success:** Recognise and reward staff efforts for any observed good practice and outdoor activities, with gestures like shout-outs in team meetings
- **Make it easy:** Store seasonally appropriate clothing in an accessible place and have a box of spares available so getting ready to go outdoors is quick and simple
- **Engage families:** Communicate with parents about the value of outdoor play in all weather. Share outdoor activities and benefits, encouraging them to support and value outdoor learning.



NDNA products to support you with your activity

[Developing Quality Outdoor Provision nursery training](#) – Face to face training

[Outdoor play](#) – England factsheet

[Outdoor play](#) – Publication

And more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna