



Severe Weather Condition

Severe weather' covers conditions such as snow, ice, fog, floods which render extremely hazardous journeys by foot, road, or public transport.

Outings – if I feel a child might be endangered by going out on foot, we will not go. If this means a child missing school, I will make every effort to contact the school and the child's parents for advice.

If we are on a walking outing and the weather conditions deteriorate, I will make every effort to get home safely.

If this seems impossible, I will take the children with me to a public indoor area and make every effort to contact parents from there to reassure them we are safe.

Heating – if my heating goes off during inclement weather conditions, I will make every effort to contact parents for them to come urgently to collect their children if the indoor temperature drops below a safe level. If parents cannot be contacted, I will follow my emergency procedure. I will make sure children are kept safe.

Clothes – if children do not arrive in suitable clothes for outdoor play, we will have to stay inside. This is in direct contravention of the EYFS, which states that I must allow children free access to the outside area every day. Parents need to pack gloves, scarves, hats, wellingtons, waterproof coats and spare clothes.

My garden path might be slippery, which would cause users to fall. I recommend parents wear suitable footwear and take extra care.

Weather forecast – if the forecast deteriorates during the day, I will make a decision based on the children's safety about whether or not they go outside. In some situations, for example if I feel the wind chill factor will hurt their skin, we will stay inside.

Police advice – if the police advise against going outside, I will follow what they say. This might mean I cannot take children on pre-organised appointments or drop them at school etc. I will make every effort to keep in touch with parents and other settings as appropriate.

Closing – if advised by police or other bodies, I will have to close my childminding setting. I will follow advice and make every effort to keep parents up to date at all times.

Late arrival of parents – if parents are delayed by inclement weather, they must inform me as soon as possible and keep me updated about their journey. Their child will be kept safe and reassured during this time.

Electricity –My heating and hot water is powered by gas. I have a mobile phone which is on me at all times.

Hypothermia – when playing outside with children, I will make sure they wear appropriate clothing to keep them warm and encourage them to keep moving around. If I do not consider it is safe to go out with the children, we will stay indoors. If a child appears to be reacting to the cold (blue lips, uncontrollable shivering etc) I will bring them inside, warm them up gently using hot drinks and blankets and seek medical advice. I will make every effort to contact parents as soon as the child's condition has stabilised – the child must be my first priority.

Footwear – if children's shoes / boots do not have soles suitable for severe weather conditions, they might fall more than usual during outings, garden play etc. Parents are responsible for ensuring children's footwear is suitable for the weather conditions. I am not responsible for any footwear or clothing that gets ruined while your child is with me, and suitable items should be worn while your child is in my setting. If a child has an accident, I will follow my accident policy.

Unexpected Closure of Childminding Service

I will endeavour to provide a service for the hours and times that I have been contracted to work however very occasionally it may be necessary to close my childminding service.

This may be as a result of me being unwell and therefore unable to work. If I have a minor ailment, such as a cough or a cold I will continue, however if my illness is very contagious then I will refrain, for example diarrhoea and sickness, until I know I cannot pass on the infection to the children or their parents. I will try to provide as much notice as possible if I am unable to work.

There may be other occasions when I am unable to provide a service, for example:

- Following emergency evacuation of my premises
- Loss of power to my home
- Mains water turned off.
- Heating broken .
- Flooding
- Medical emergency for myself or a member of my immediate family
- Death within the family

I will advise parents as soon as I can if I am unable to provide a service.

If you have any concerns regarding this policy, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Written by Emma Marshall

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