

GENERAL MANUAL POLICY

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CATEGORY: W.J. Griffis Children's Centre

TOPIC: Extreme Weather

POLICY

It is the policy of the W.J. Griffis Children's Centre and the Griffis School-age Program to ensure a safe and healthy outdoor environment and program, all year round.

GENERAL MANUAL PROCEDURE

TOPIC:

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PROCEDURE:

WARM WEATHER PROCEDURE:

1. The weather will be monitored closely on a daily basis, and recorded in the playground checklist.
2. During the warmer months, the humidex will be monitored; the hours of outdoor play will be adjusted to reflect the cooler part of the day as the more ideal time.
3. If the humidex is at or above 30 degrees Celsius, then the children will remain indoors, or will remain in deep-shaded areas.
4. Air-conditioning will be set to keep the classrooms comfortable.
5. Children will be provided with plenty of drinking water outdoors.
6. Families are encouraged to provide a re-usable water bottle labeled with the child's full name. Parents are to take the water container home daily for sanitizing.
7. Children should have sunscreen applied at home, and have a hat to wear outdoors.
8. If the air quality is poor due to smoke or smog, then the children will remain indoors, with the windows closed.

COLD WEATHER PROCEDURE:

1. The Bambini class (children eighteen months to three years of age) will not go outdoors if the temperature is -16 degrees Celsius, with or without the windchill. Little ones do not move that quickly in snowsuits, thus they do not generate the necessary heat to keep warm.
2. The Casa class (children three to six years of age) may go outdoors if the temperature is -20 degrees Celsius and sunny; if it is -20 degrees Celsius and cloudy, the children will remain indoors.
3. Outdoor time may be limited to less than sixty minutes depending on the weather conditions, for all children.
4. Staff will continuously monitor the children, to ensure that they are warm and comfortable.
5. The Centre will maintain some spare outer-wear for those children who are not adequately dressed.

SNOW OR ICE STORMS:

1. In the event of a closure of the W. J. Griffis Children's Centre and the Griffis School-age Program in Algonquin Avenue School, then this will be reportable as a Serious Occurrence, and the licensing agent will need to be informed, as well as the Ministry of Education – Early Learning Division - Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch.
2. A Serious Occurrence Notification Form will need to be posted in the front entries for a minimum of 10 business days.