Hampshire County Council

Little Explorers Nursery School
SYRCH
Lutman Street
Emsworth
PO10 7QX

Services for Young Children
The Castle
EII Court North – Floor 2
Winchester
SO23 8UG

Enquiries to Kathy Murphy
Direct Line 01962 847070
Date 18 July 2022

My reference 2649224
Your reference Outdoor planning app
E-mail:- childcare@hants.gov.uk

To Whom it may concern,

Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient good quality early years and childcare provisions to meet the needs of working families and children to receive a good level of development as per the early learning goals. This application from Little Explorers Nursery to enable the young children in their care to have greater opportunities to access the outdoor area to support overall learning and development supports good quality delivery. The provision provides full day care for children aged 2 to 5 years and is well situated in the community
Early Years and Childcare provision is required to meet the standards as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework 2021 and Development Matter (2021). It supports practitioners to make provision to enable children to develop across all seven areas of learning, with Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development, along with Communication and Language Development being Prime Areas that should be focussed upon.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974907/EYFS_framework_-_March_2021.pdf

Particular reference is made in the EYFS from the Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines (2019), building its recommendations in light of reviewing a large body of evidence, concluding that 'the amount of physical activity in the Under-5 period influences a wide range of both short-term and long-term health and developmental outcomes' Reference is also made to the link between physical activity and obesity levels, particularly in later life.
https://www.playscotland.org/resources/print/uk-chief-medical-officers-physical-activity-guidelines.pdf?plsctml_id=18537

Additionally, this application is supported for the following reasons:

• There is evidence that outdoor play and physical activity have a positive impact on life expectancy, well-being and symptoms of stress and anxiety. Due to Covid-19, many children have been housebound for long periods of time, especially during the lockdowns. Consequently, this will have a negative impact on their overall development.

• The National Childbirth Trust article, 'The Benefits of Children Playing Outside,' (NCT, 2017) is backed up by research suggesting that alongside the overall developmental benefits, 'being outdoors helps children sleep, eat, and live more healthily. This encourages them to form healthy habits for life.' https://www.nct.org.uk/baby-toddler/games-and-play/benefits-outdoor-play-for-children

With the above comments in mind this application is fully supported as giving the children wider access, through free-flow to the outdoor environment,which will enhance their holistic learning and development. Furthermore, this can support with improving the children's overall health and wellbeing and could provide a foundation for a healthy lifestyle, possibly continuing into adulthood.
Please do contact me for any further information if you require.

Kind Regards

[redacted]

Kathy Murphy
Childcare Development and Business Officer
Havant, Fareham and Gosport