



Protecting Flora & Fauna Policy

The Nurture Circle Ltd. recognises the many wonders of nature and the potential benefits and qualities of many plants and animals in nature, not just for ourselves but for the delicate ecosystems that live within our woodlands too. As part of Nature Club ethos we do not remove any plants from our sites or cause harm to any animals or their habitats as we believe in the importance of preserving the natural ecology of our sites and minimising our own impact.

Flora

There is a rich diversity of flora in our sites which supports many of the different fauna to thrive and survive in their natural habitat. As such we ensure that the different trees, shrubs and plants are considered in all the activities we undertake to minimise our impact on the site.

Some plants can be poisonous if eaten or are capable of causing allergic reactions if handled. Part of our role is to educate our families and children about the risks within nature – by removing them we are missing the opportunity to help children understand the risks for themselves and are preventing other wildlife from thriving. Some of the plants that are poisonous to ourselves are some of the only food sources for the birds during certain months of the year as an example.

Accordingly, all of our sites are risk assessed and our team are trained and aware of the dangerous plants on site. We have set ground rules to avoid contact with dangerous plants and share knowledge with children and parents effectively.

Where a potentially dangerous plant exists we have conducted a risk assessment which takes into account:

- the ages and maturity of the children
- the degree of supervision required
- whether we need to restrict access to affected areas
- how children with allergies might be affected.
- Our team management of the site and ground rules

Parents are welcomed to come forward and speak with our Nature Club team if they would like to see our risk assessments or learn more about our management of dangerous plants for their own knowledge.

Fauna

There are so many fascinating fauna to be discovered from minibeasts to birds to mammals and children are naturally curious about the creatures that share the woodland spaces with them.

At Nature Club we recognise the importance of sharing knowledge and experience with children and their families whilst protecting the different species that live within the woodland habitat.

When looking for minibeasts in their natural habitats we will be careful to return them and any habitat such as logs back into position if they have been moved or disturbed. Children are encouraged to look but not to touch to ensure no harm comes to any living creature or themselves. We also have consideration for their habitats and food sources and ensure we minimise use and damage so they are not disrupted by our presence as much as possible.

Children love watching the different birds on site and are encouraged to do so from a safe distance so as not to interrupt the natural behaviours of birds. If there are birds nesting within areas we will adjust our boundaries to ensure they will not be threatened by our presence and we will be considerate of the natural resources they may need to sustain their homes and take care of their young.

The mammals we may see signs of on site such as deer, rabbits, foxes etc may be more shy around humans and generally not observed by ourselves but signs of their presence may be seen. We teach children about recognising signs of them sharing the site by identifying different food sources, tracks and trails the animals may leave. Children are taught to be sympathetic to the sharing of the space and are given a knowledge of the importance of different flora and fauna that support their survival in their natural habitat.

At the Nurture Circle Ltd. we believe in educating our children and families for the benefit of natural woodland and nature environments to minimise the impact we can have and to ensure we can share the woodland spaces with consideration for the flora and fauna that live within them and support them to thrive, enjoying nature side by side.

This policy was reviewed on	Signed on behalf of the company	Date for review
26 March 2021		26 March 2022