

ECLC Cold Weather Guidelines

With the cold weather upon us this would be a good time to try our best to come up with some common sense guidelines regarding exposing children to the elements during playtime on the rooftop playground.

It is difficult to put absolute numbers when making this decision (as we do for the Yellow Dust). There are a variety of factors to consider when deciding whether or not children play outside. Therefore, the decision regarding outside play will be done on a case by case basis but using the following guidelines:

- Children must be wearing appropriate clothing for the weather conditions.
- We must be mindful of many factors such as windy/calm, sunny/overcast, damp/dry conditions.
- A determination must be made by the Head of School or his designee if conditions warrant it.
- The duty teacher may decide to shorten playtime if it seems too cold or if the children are not enjoying themselves. He/she would be responsible for notifying classroom teachers of the decision to bring the children back to their classrooms.

Please keep in mind a few other items:

We will **not** put children in any situations which would be unsafe or threaten their health and well-being.

The Parent Student Handbook states "Our policy is that a child who is well enough to attend school is well enough to participate in all lessons and outside playtime." In general, children cannot be kept inside at the request of their parents.

In most cases the children will go outside every day. If conditions are too uncomfortable they will stay for only a brief time. The teachers on duty will determine when it is appropriate to bring them inside.

Current medical understanding is that cold weather does not, in itself, cause colds or flu. These are caused by bacteria or viruses which thrive in warm, moist environments.

Not everyone will agree on what are reasonable conditions for children to play outside. It is best to err on the side of caution.

If many children are not playing comfortably on the playground due to cold weather, it would be best to bring them in.

The age of the children should be considered.

Children who have chronic health conditions such as asthma may be exempt from these guidelines.

In the exceptional case when one or two children appear uncomfortable due to the cold, the teacher may arrange for them to come to the lobby/office until playtime is over. The teacher then must communicate with the parents and recommend that more clothing be available to the child when playing outside.