



TLC Day Care Inclement Weather Guidelines

- It is regulatory to go outside every day.
- There is not a specific temperature in which children in care should not be going outside (refer to the *Weather Guidelines Chart* for more information - there are a few factors that come into play).
- Even if the children (this includes infants) go outside for 10-15 minutes when it's cold, it is important to get them outside.
- It is good to go outside when there is snow on the ground or when it is snowing outside. This is a great learning experience for the children.
- If it is warm in the summer and raining or just drizzling, the children can go outside. (There is nothing better than splashing in puddles and playing in the mud- rain boots and umbrellas are suggested.)
- Often parents request providers not take their children outside. Remember, according to regulation, the provider "may " accommodate this request, but is not required unless directed by a doctor. If the child is not well enough to participate in the program's daily activities, they are probably not well enough to be in day care. (Refer to the *Illness Policy*).

- It is recommended that programs give parents and staff information to educate them on why it is important for developing children to go outside. Natural light and brain development go hand in hand.
- Activities being offered are helping develop all the large motor muscles in children.
- By bringing some of the inside materials outside, children have many different experiences outside.
- Swings are not the best for day care use- it is hard for staff to appropriately supervise and it is difficult to keep young children from getting hit from the swings. Having fun and being safe are the top priorities!