



Guidance for adults bringing under 5's to matches.

Burnley FC does not have a minimum age restriction on children attending football matches, however it is considered that there are situations and other issues that should be given some careful thought by parents before bringing young children to a match (or other event).

Your child is your responsibility and should be FULLY supervised throughout your visit to the ground.

Getting Lost

Football Grounds are large, busy, bustling places. Children can easily get lost and within the ground everything looks the same;

You should always:

- keep your child with you at all times and fully supervise them especially when visiting toilets, be prepared to miss some of the football game to ensure you do this;
- have a pre agreed meeting point organised and on arrival discuss this with the child in case you get separated;
- show them who the Stewards are and ensure that they know that they should go to a member of staff if they are lost, scared or worried.

Emergencies

Could you and your child cope in one? Would they be safe in the crowd trying to get quickly out of the stadium all at once? If you had to get out quickly how would you do that safely and together? Where is your nearest emergency escape? Where is your alternative escape route? Where would you meet up outside the ground? This should all be considered prior to the game starting, look around you for emergency exits and meeting points.

Risk from Footballs

During the warm up and during the game in all areas of the spectator seating there is a risk of being hit by a ball from the pitch, during warm up there are multiple balls and these could come from any direction from the pitch when you least expect it and your focus is not on the pitch. Footballs are hard and can be hit at force and could cause significant injury.

There is considered more risk behind the goals or near the corner-flags.

****STAY ALERT AT ALL TIMES****

Goals

When a goal is scored the crowd will become very noisy, there will be jumping and some possible surging, how will you ensure that your child feels safe and is not harmed?

The Weather

The English Weather is completely unpredictable and you should be considering what your child may need throughout their visit:

- High temperatures and strong sunshine are possible and this could mean you may be stood in full sun for long periods of time.





- Winter games especially at night, may mean sub-zero temperatures, rain, wind and snow. This may also cause tricky conditions under foot when walking to and from the game.

In extreme weather conditions babies and children respond differently to adults, they can become cold very quickly and also dehydrate very quickly, make adequate provision.

In warmer weather dress appropriately but layer clothing in case it gets colder later on, provide lots of drinks and ensure they have sun cream on and that you bring extra to top up if required.

In colder weather or at night, clothe them with layers they can take one off if it's too much, use at least one more than you are likely to be wearing and they should really have a coat, hat and gloves. *Check the weather forecast before you leave and be prepared for it to change and be colder or wetter than predicted.*

Noise and Language

Football matches are very noisy events, babies and young children's hearing is more sensitive than adults and consideration should be given to the impact the loud noise may have on your child, maybe you could consider ear defenders, plugs or muffs.

Young children may also find the cheering, singing and chanting in some parts of the stadium a little frightening.

You may also find some spectators occasionally using language that is inappropriate for young people to hear, whilst Burnley FC are committed to tackling this we cannot guarantee that your child will not hear this. However, The Club has a Family Stand for families where such concerns are lessened.

Final thoughts

We want you and your child to enjoy your visit. If you are bringing a child to the stadium think about their needs first. If you can't guarantee their comfort or safety, then please think about getting a babysitter so you can relax and enjoy the game!

Any young child has the right to enjoy their visit and should never experience discomfort, distress or harm as a result of a visit to the stadium.

Where the Club officials are concerned that a child may be suffering abuse or neglect we may decide that we have to refer our concerns to the Head of Safeguarding, Local Authorities Safeguarding Team or the Police.

If you have a concern about a child during a match, contact one of the stewards who will be happy to help or alternatively you can contact Burnley FC Head of Safeguarding, Helen Tanner at any time on h.tanner@burnleyfc.com or 07714 792507

Lancashire Local Authority Children's Social Care Duty Team can also be contacted on 0300 123 6720 or if there is an immediate risk of harm contact the Police on 999.