

5.3.b Risk Assessment - Wee Green Spaces

Line Manager name:		Line Manager signature:		Assessment No: 2	
Date:	Assessed by: Maggie MacDonald and Jacqueline Bremner	Location:		Review date:	
	Signature:	Activity: Wee Green Spaces at Botanic Gardens		August 2023	

What has the potential To cause harm (hazards) and what harm might result?	Who and how many people might be at risk?	What measures are already in place?	Severity	Likelihood	Risk rating	What further action (s) needs to be taken to reduce risk	By whom and by what date
Weather Risk of sunburn or exposure due to extreme cold weather conditions	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session will not run if there are adverse weather conditions, 40 mph gusts (met office app) University will advise of closures. Children to be dressed in nursery dungarees, jackets and their own wellington boots. Hats and gloves as appropriate. When hot, all children have sunscreen applied by their parents. Water to be provided for drinking. 	3	1	3	<p>Parents apply sunscreen and insect repellent (SMIDGE) on arrival at nursery, as per settings policy when required.</p> <p>Nursery can provide warm fleece dungarees, fleece tops if a child's coat is not suitable.</p> <p>Scarves and waterproof gloves and sun hats are also available for all in attendance.</p>	
Slips trips and falls Weather, uneven ground and vegetation underfoot	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of ground conditions underfoot and act accordingly. Wet leaves, mud, snow or ice. 	2	2	4		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paths or cut grass walkways to be used only. No digressing onto or through vegetation. ● Check for leaning or dead trees. Advise landowner of any potentially dangerous trees and put in place procedures to avoid being near danger. ● Ensure children are aware of potential pingbacks from branches and how to reduce the chances of this happening. ● Complete site visit and contact landowner about any specific concerns which may require their action. 					
<p>Irritants such as vegetation including berries. Stings from nettles, insects (midges, bees, wasps, ticks)</p> <p>Animal waste, hazardous litter</p>	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children to be advised that they should not eat anything that is growing in the garden as they may get a sore tummy. ● Seek medical advice if a child vomits or displays signs of allergic reaction after touching or ingesting vegetation. ● Bag natural items and bring them to hospital with child or adult affected. ● Nettles and other possible irritants to be identified with 	2	2	4	<p>Be aware of seasonal variations of vegetation growing in the area. SMIDGE applied.</p> <p>Seek advice of University re-dangerous vegetation</p> <p>Parents can apply insect repellent at home or on arrival at nursery or give consent for staff to do so</p>	

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		children and repercussions if they touch skin. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents asked to check children for ticks once at home. These to be removed with tick remover. Seek medical advice if concerned that area around bite becomes red and person suffers from fever and headache (Lyme disease). 				whilst on site if insects become problematic. Staff to carry a list of consent.	
Areas of hazards such as banks and ponds	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photographs of hazardous areas to be shown to children or identified to all in the garden. Children to be advised to stay away from the areas with reasons why, so they understand the dangers. 	4	1	4		
Manual handling Back injury through lifting, crouching, using or carrying heavy equipment	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children to carry their own small essentials in small day sacks. Staff rucksacks should not be too large or heavy. Do not carry large quantities of water or other heavy items. 	2	2	4	Adults to model good practice	
Other site users including public and university staff and students working in area.	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University to advise if areas are closed off due to work being carried out. Keep clear of barriered areas. 	2	2	4		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not approach members of the public if their behaviour may impact negatively on the group. Report persons in question to University immediately if staff have concerns for group's welfare. 					
Adverse weather conditions Change in weather during session.	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head to safe space. Contact nursery to advise of change of location and conditions. Keep them updated with further changes or concerns. 	4	1	4	Safe Space identified and named	
Climbing trees Weak or vulnerable branches or trees which have fallen over. Too many children on one tree.	All	<p>Only trees which have been identified by landowner as safe to climb may be climbed. Children to be supervised, at all times.</p> <p>These trees to be identified to children with correct behaviours of use explained.</p> <p>First aid kit always available.</p>	3	1	3	Specific, identified tree at top of arboretum by sitting area. Risks and care of tree discussed with children every session.	
Challenging pupil behaviour including running away, oppositional behaviour and undesirable physical behaviour.	Child Peers Staff	<p>Very small group to attend with 1:2 ratio.</p> <p>Person Centred Risk Assessment (PCRA) in place in the ELC setting</p>	2	3	6	Conversation to be held with parent/ carer at drop off time at ELC to establish wellbeing of the child with a PCRA on the day and a	

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		<p>applies to Wee Green Space Sessions.</p> <p>Staff to contact SLT if/when an incident occurs at Wee Green that staff are unable to resolve whilst ensuring the safety of all in attendance.</p> <p>Necessary action then to be taken by SLT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contact police ● Contact parent/carer ● Attend site to support 				<p>decision made jointly about attendance at Wee Green.</p> <p>Parent/ carer to be invited to join the sessions with their child.</p>	

Risk Benefit Assessment: Wee Green Space General

Benefits of undertaking woodland activity:

- It helps develop children's understanding of the local habitat, weather and climate.
- Children learn about key features of the woodland area, its ecosystems, management, and use.
- Children learn how to behave appropriately in a wood and take responsibility for their actions both on and off site.
- Children develop a knowledge of their local area.
- Children learn routines that facilitate independence and develop their ability to cope outdoors in all weathers.
- Supports physical coordination skills through play on a range of uneven surfaces.
- Social and cooperative skills are developed as children work together on joint projects, (negotiation, turn taking etc)

- Creativity is developed through offering a wide range of activities that embrace the natural environment such as trig structures, transient art, fairy dens, fantasy worlds etc.
- Mathematical concepts are supported through discussions and activities surrounding weight, size, distance, length etc using natural materials.
- Science and engineering are supported through experimenting with construction, den building. and ropes.
- Language is developed within a stimulating environment thereby helping to increase vocabulary through discussion, activities, and interactions.
- Motor skills (fine and gross) are developed through construction, carrying, jumping, walking, climbing.
- Children have the freedom to play in a natural space, to learn to love and respect nature and look after it. This should support a life- long development of caring for the environment enhancing sustainability.