Education risk benefit assessment – Outdoor learning areas

Site:	XZY Preschool
Date of assessment:	26/05/2015
Activity:	Tree Climbing

Benefit assessment

Description of the experience/environment where risk has been identified:

Climbing trees in the outdoor learning area - Potential falls

Benefits of activity for learning outcomes of children:

Confidence through challenge

Coordination and strength

Problem solving – getting up and getting down

Social interaction – helping peers

Connection with nature

Creative and imaginative play

Non-negotiable elements of this activity: (determined after risk assessment):

Impact surface under climbing branches (bark chips with 300mm depth or impact mats)

Trees suitable for climbing to be identified by a green ribbon around the trunk

Climbing rules to be developed with children and on display

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Risk assessment

Hazard identified	PRELIMINARY RISK ASSESSMENT (no measures in place) (using risk matrix - consequence x likelihood)	Reduction / control measures	Who	When	LEVEL OF RISK (control measures in place) (using risk matrix - consequence x likelihood)
Fall from tree	(Minor x Possible) Moderate	Bark chips or mats	Staff	Daily	(Minor x Unlikely) Low
Tree unsuitable for climbing	(Minor x Possible) Moderate	Lower limbs allowing accessibility removed	Arborist Groundsman	ASAP	(Minor x Rare) Low
Child climbs too high in the tree and unable to get down	(Minor x Unlikely) Low	Allow children to self-assess height with no peer pressure Assess what are children safe climbing practices Have an extendable ladder accessible is required	Staff and children	Review tree rules once per term	(Minor x Rare) Low
Tree branch breaks while child is climbing on it	(Moderate x Rare) Moderate	Arborist assessment to assess health and viability as climbing tree	Arborist	Yearly or as advised by the arborist	(Minor x Rare) Low
	Overall Preliminary Risk Assessment MODERATE				Overall Level of Risk LOW

Education Risk Benefit Assessment – OUTCOME

BENEFITS outweighs RISK	OR	RISK outweighs BENEFITS

Plan prepared by	Sue Smith, Teacher
Prepared in consultation with:	GC and Site Leader
Communicated to:	Parents though the newsletter and activity and rationale included in parent handbook Risk Benefit Assessment displayed on the notice board 3rd party groups accessing the OLE (ie playgroups, parent groups)
Venue and safety information reviewed and attached	Yes / No Comment if needed: Site map identifying climbing trees
Review plan	Beginning of each year with new cohort of children

	As required through arborist advice

Reminder: Monitor the effectiveness of controls and change if necessary. Review the risk assessment if an incident or significant change occurs.

Risk Matrix

Likelihood		
Almost Certain	*Possibility of occurrence more than 75% - expected to occur*
Likely	*Possibility of occurrence between 50% - 75% - probably will occur*
Possible	*Possibility of occurrence between 25% - 50% - may occur at some time*
Unlikely	*Possibility of occurrence between 5% - 25% - could occur at some time*
Rare	*Possibility of occurrence less than 5% - may never occur*

Consequence	
Critical	• Critical incident. (e.g. Death or permanent disability of adult or child; high level of distress to other parties) • Sustained negative publicity or damage to reputation from a national perspective or from the community welfare perspective
Major	• Multiple injuries requiring specialist medical treatment or hospitalisation; and/or major occupational health safety & welfare liability incident / issue • Major incident which damages public or parent confidence
Moderate	• Serious injuries and/or illness • Complex welfare and/or health care issue • Serious disruption or incident, resulting in distress to children and adults
Minor	• Minor first aid or minor occupational health safety & welfare liability incident / issue (e.g. minor cuts, bruises, bumps)
Insignificant	• No treatment required

Level of Risk

Consequence	Likelihood				
	Rare	**Unlikely**	**Possible**	**Likely**	**Almost Certain**
Critical	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Major	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Extreme
Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
Minor	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Insignificant	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate

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