



Dunnottar Nursery

Benefit Risk Assessment Policy

Policy Statement

It is important that our children can experience risk in their lives as this then allows them to become aware of what risk is, what it can look like and what it feels like. By developing this awareness allows children to start to manage their own risk and this supports their capacity to development and learn. As a staff team we recognise and manage potential risks that our children may be exposed to while still providing the appropriate challenge and risk in their play.

Health and Social Care Standards My support, My life 2017, Scottish Government. As part of being registered with the Care Inspectorate, we must comply with this document and illustrate the standards within our nursery.

1.25 I can choose to have an active life and participate in a range of recreational, social, creative, physical and learning activities every day, both indoors and outdoors.

2.24 I make informed choices and decisions about the risks I take in my daily life and am encouraged to take positive risks which enhance the quality of my life.

3.25 I am helped to feel safe and secure in my local community.

5.17 My environment is secure and safe.

Aims

We support and encourage our children to be active during each nursery session by participating in a variety of activities, inside and out. By encouraging our children to try new activities that challenge them ensures that they are learning or revisiting new skills that they will eventually master. This is how children develop the skills to access and manage risk, it is our aim to provide opportunities for our children to achieve this.

As part of our commitment to provide a well-managed Nursery we ensure that we have robust measures in place to identify risks in our environment and implement the procedures needed to minimise these risks.

The purpose of a benefit risk assessment is to:

- identify the likely hazards to be encountered
- identify hazards you may create as a result of actions you intend to take
- identify those who are at risk
- identify how risks can be minimised and managed at an acceptable level by implementing suitable control measures
- establish appropriate supervision ratios

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children. (*United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child - Article 3*)

Our risk assessment procedures:

- A daily visual check of the Nursery is undertaken to ensure that that room is in a good state of decoration and repair. Any furniture or resources that are damaged are removed for repair or disposal.
- A cleaning record of resources is maintained and every resource is cleaned before it is stored away.
- A daily visual check of the outside area occurs before each session starts and before the children access the area after lunch.
- If children are being taken off the school premises or out of the immediate Nursery outdoor area, the names of the children involved are recorded. These trips are planned and risk assessments completed beforehand. The information is passed onto the DHT who will input the information on the online risk assessment system Evolve.
- As children leave the Nursery at the end of session, the staff member who is on door ensures that all children are signed out by an authorised adult. What happens now?
- All staff are aware of our risk assessments and read them at least annually. Benefit risk assessments are available in a folder in the Nursery cupboard for staff to refer to. Benefit risk assessment for Personal Protective Equipment is displayed in the kitchen area and changing room.
- Benefit risk assessments are reviewed on an annual basis or sooner in response to an incident or updated guidance.
- Benefit risk assessments that relate to accessing out local community are taken by a staff member on these excursions to enable information to be accessed immediately if required. Trips out with the nursery environment are logged on Evolve (an online risk assessment system used by the local authority). The Depute Head Teacher **must** be notified of trips outwith the nursery environment.
- During the induction process parents/carers are asked whether their children have any specific health issues. This information is recorded, shared with staff and stored securely. This highlights any medical conditions that might place children at a higher rate of infection that would not usually be serious in most children.

Training

Staff Discussion throughout the academic year reviewing and updating risk assessment when required.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly and in response to accident, incident or change in national or local policy or guidance.

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Date of Review: October 2021

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References

Health Protection Scotland, *Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings Day Care and Childminding Settings* (section 2 – Risk assessment) May 2018.

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Care Inspectorate, *My World Outdoors*, (section 3.1 - Safe) 2014

Health and Safety Executive, *Children's Play and Leisure – Promoting a Balanced Approach*, 2012(19)

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Aberdeenshire Council, *Aberdeenshire Council Risk Assessment Guidance*, 2010

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