

11.2 Risk Benefit Analysis Form

Flying Start Nursery

Subject of Risk Assessment:	Natural and Loose parts play		
Brief description of Activity, location, feature and equipment used:	All free play for children in the Flying Start setting (Indoors and Outdoors) Structured play (games, activities, and challenges) Play involving imported or scavenged loose parts.		
Job title and name of person making assessment:		Signature of person making assessment:	
Date of Assessment:		Review date:	
Name of senior manager:		Signature of senior manager:	

Risk Assessment Statement:

Flying Start recognise that all risks cannot be reduced to nil; therefore this risk assessment prioritises the significant risks. Significant risks are those which pose risk of serious injury, chronic injury, disability or death. For all activities, Flying Start staff will dynamically assess risks and put in place control measures and record as required, but always within agreed and recorded risk benefit assessments.

Concerns, changes in risk management practice or minor injuries that are seen by Flying Start staff to be significant should be reported to the manager who has signed off this RBA.

Activity or Feature:

Running, chasing, jumping, walking, standing, balancing, sliding, swinging, dancing and sitting on features or objects.

Rough and tumble play, dancing and moving, chasing, playing games.

Climbing, standing, balancing, hanging or sitting on features both built (such as decking, balance beams, logs, stones, climbing frames, ramps, shelters, dens, fences, steps and structures etc) and natural objects (trees, bushes, rocks, logs or slopes)

Jumping on and off features and objects, both natural and built.

Building of temporary dens, structures, hollows, piles and holes (dug in sand pit or dirt) piling up of materials (both man-made and natural, provided and scavenged).

Transporting materials both man-made (provided or scavenged) and natural (provided and scavenged).

Digging dirt, sand, bark or loose materials.

Using ropes, skipping ropes, string, webbing, elastic rope, bungees and Velcro.

Using material and resources such as cotton, nylon and plastic sheeting, string, felt, buttons, beads, gemstones, pebbles, lollypop sticks, bottle tops and glitter.

Using chalk, stones, sticks, pebbles, grit, sand, dirt, grass, flowers, plants and leaves.

Using water in barrels, buckets, pipes, cups, tyres, puddles, pans, from taps or rainwater, Snow and ice.

	<p>Using tools, both specific provided, scavenged or temporarily used. Breaking, snapping, pulling apart, undoing and deconstructing items provided or scavenged.</p> <p>Throwing, passing, lifting, carrying, catching, kicking, batting and hitting any of the above objects.</p> <p>Unpacking and clearing or tidying away of all the objects and items listed above.</p>
--	---

<p>How will participants benefit:</p>	<p>Pleasure and fun.</p> <p>Inclusive and mixed groups playing together, developing group working and team working skills.</p> <p>Development of imagination and creativity skills leading to improves problem solving skills.</p> <p>Development of physical literacy and learning opportunities about physical capabilities.</p> <p>Development of confidence, resilience and well-being.</p> <p>Appreciation of and engagement with natural spaces and place, including changing weather and seasons.</p> <p>Appreciation of risks and development of experience that allows them to increasingly make more decisions about physical, social and emotional risk taking.</p> <p>Taking responsibility and developing awareness of self and others.</p> <p>Opportunities to develop language and communication skills.</p> <p>Developing an ownership of indoor and outdoor spaces at Acorns, preventing damage.</p>
<p>Who will be at risk:</p>	<p>Children participating.</p> <p>Acorns staff and observers may also be at slight risk.</p>

<p>Any local factors that may affect risks or controls:</p>	<p>Group competence and experience.</p>
<p>Possible hazards and risks:</p>	<p>Slips, trips and falls (both accidental and over ambitious) leading to serious injury or harm immediately or through over repetition of the activity. Slips, trips and falls on slippery surfaces due to rain, ice, snow or mould and/or higher speed of children, increases this concern, due to increased risk of severity of injury.</p> <p>Serious injury, fear or death from thrown or dropped objects, aggressive use of objects being hit by others.</p> <p>Serious injuries or death from falls onto, running into, jumping and bumping into sharp or hard objects.</p> <p>Serious injuries from mishandling or incompetent moving of equipment and items.</p> <p>Grit, sand or mud in eyes through rubbing, throwing or wind blowing items.</p> <p>Serious injury or fear through other children running into, jumping over or colliding with others.</p> <p>Serious injury or death through falls from significant height both on constructed and provided equipment and scavenged or built items (e.g. tree climbing or standing on den roof)</p> <p>Finger, toe, leg, arm or head/neck traps in gaps between equipment (constructed and temporary, fixed and moveable, scavenged and provided) leading to serious injury or death.</p> <p>Sudden failure or collapse of fixed, built and mobile equipment or items (provided and scavenged) through lack of maintenance, damage, poor design or specification, that leads to falls, slips and impacts that result in serious injury, fear or death.</p> <p>Infection from urine or faeces and dry, dusty soil.</p> <p>Ingestion of toxins through oral contact or eating of objects or materials (provided and scavenged).</p> <p>Hypothermia, sunburn and heat stroke due to adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>Serious injuries from falling branches or blown items, due to extreme wind and/or poor maintenance of buildings,</p>

	<p>woodlands and objects.</p> <p>Bullying or inappropriate behaviour taking place between peers, especially of varying age groups.</p> <p>Damage to equipment, which accidentally (or by design) puts children at risk significantly more harm than the norm.</p>
<p>Precautions and control measures to reduce the risk severity or likelihood:</p>	<p>Acorns resources, experience and corporate knowledge that informs Flying Start staff and our families. Staff training and sharing of good practice is part of this process.</p> <p>Play policies that reflect adults' thoughts and expectations should be in place. Central to these will be a policy that is not reliant on paperwork, but should engage with staff, children and parents to create a culture of play, in which judged risks are expected and simply managed.</p> <p>Good design, construction, management of outside area and equipment, informed by experience and policy. This extends to selecting specific areas, within a larger space, to use for a specific play activity.</p> <p>Simple inspection and maintenance of the playground, equipment and items, with hazards being central to this. Inspections should include condition of equipment and inspection for dangerous items, damage, faeces and urine. This will be done on a session by session basis (informal and only recorded where concerns are raised).</p> <p>Simple visual inspection of other local issues or factors such as neighbouring buildings or condition of trees, especially during times of inclement weather.</p> <p>Initial key group discussions facilitated by Flying Start staff members introducing each resource available and identifying the potential risks involved. Agree rules amongst the group regarding safe handling. All adults involved will interact with the children and observe play behaviour throughout the Flying Start day.</p> <p>Behaviour of the children demonstrates responsibility and competence, and adults should monitor and intervene when necessary to ensure play can continue, without unacceptable risk or inappropriate behaviour that causes accident, harm or fear.</p> <p>Behaviour standards will be agreed in advance (by staff) and rules will discussed with children and put into practice at Flying Start.</p> <p>Climbing to any height above ground to be monitored, in accordance with the risks posed.</p>

Throwing of objects and substances to be monitored, particularly sand, dirt and gravel: and where others are not expecting to catch or dodge thrown items: and where items are hazardous when thrown to others avoiding or catching (because of sharp edges, weight, speed or other).

Carrying of items that are heavy, awkward or sharp enough to injure should be managed carefully, with good lifting practice (share the weight, straight backs etc.) shown by all staff and then employed by all.

Stacking or building of items or digging holes or piling of materials, onto which children will climb on to or under which will shelter or move, should also be dynamically risk assessed, and steered where required by responsible adults.

Awareness of how ropes (or similar items) are being used will be of great importance, with observation for opportunity for accidental strangulation or similar being a priority.

The weather's impact on a session will be assessed at the start and ongoing during a session, with care taken over cold and heat injuries, where an adult will insist on clothing or protection as needed.

All Flying Start staff will hold a relevant first aid qualification.

Precedents or comparisons:	<p>All playgrounds and play practices offer a level of risk, and there is a clear history and evidence for children experiencing 'free play' over generations.</p> <p>We have taken guidance from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Play Safety Forum 'Managing Risk in Play Provision'- Royal Society for the prevention of Accidents – 'Play Safety Advice' guidance on inspection and construction of playgrounds & Statistics on playground accidents.- Health and Safety Executive – 'Children's Play and Leisure – Promoting a Balanced Approach'
Judgement:	<p>Free play offers real benefits to the children participating.</p> <p>Good preparation in choice or design, inspection, management and maintenance of play sites is, as well as assessment of a group and individuals competence, is central to a session that has acceptable risks.</p> <p>Continual dynamic risk assessment will also support children in making good decisions, especially when a trust approach is adopted.</p> <p>In light of our experience and good judgement, Free play and loose parts play offers an acceptable risk compared to the benefits.</p>

