

Benefit Risk Assessment Procedure



UNCRC in Article 3: The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

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 because 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 following procedure has been written based on *Health and Social Care Standards My support, my life* (with specific reference to descriptive statements, 2.24, 2.25, 3.14, 5.17 & 5.22) Care Inspectorate, June 2017; *The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011, Scottish Statutory Instrument* (with specific reference to section 4 (1) and (d); *Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings Day Care and Childminding Settings, Health Protection Scotland* (with specific reference to Appendix 10), *Health Protection Scotland, May 2018.*

"The Care Inspectorate supports care service providers taking a positive approach to risk in order to achieve the best outcomes for children. This means moving away from a traditional deficit model that takes a risk-averse approach, which can unnecessarily restrict children's experiences attending registered services, to a more holistic risk-benefit model. For example, we encourage services to use risk assessment to support children to enjoy potentially hazardous activities such as woodwork using real tools, exploring nature and playing in the mud and rain. We do not expect written risk assessments to be carried out for daily play activities." *My World Outdoors, p18, 2016.*

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Our benefit 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. The room is set up in line with the children's needs.
- Resources are cleaned before they are stored away.
- A daily visual check of the outside area occurs before each session and is recorded on the checklist record. Children are involved in this process by carrying out a pictorial risk assessment with an adult to ensure it is safe and support their understanding of this, where possible.
- 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 on the blackboard at the diary. The total number of children involved is recorded on the roll board and on the register. EYSP completes an Evolve for any excursions off the school grounds.
- If children have been taken to the gym hall or music room, the number of children involved is recorded on the blackboard at the diary.
- As children leave the nursery at the end of session, the staff member who is on gate duty ensures children leave with their identified parent/carer or notified adult.
- All staff are aware of our benefit risk assessments and are involved with the updating and review process. This occurs annually or sooner in response to accidents/incidents. Benefit risk assessments are available on Microsoft Teams and a folder is maintained in the staff cupboard for staff to refer to. Benefit risk assessments for specific areas are displayed in the setting as necessary e.g. 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 the local community are taken by a staff member on these excursions to enable information to be accessed immediately if required. A general Local Community Risk Assessment is in place for accessing this, however, specific Benefit Risk Assessments are creating by the EYLPs and team for specific outings such as Forest School, Soft Play, Care Home etc as required.

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- 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, or impairments which could put children at greater risk.
- Child friendly risk assessments are undertaken annually to support children's understanding of risks and how to keep themselves safe when taking part in daily experiences.
- Staff have completed Benefit Risk Assessment training and apply this to their practice.
- Visitors to the setting or relief staff are made aware of key risk assessments so they can become familiar with these and apply consistent approaches.
- Children are supported and encouraged to take part in risky play and self assess risks for themselves. Adults support this by providing opportunities for children to take safe risks.

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