

Risk Benefit Assessment - Water

Subject of Risk Assessment:	Water Play
Description of activities, location and equipment	Water's edge, alongside water venues or venues with lying water
Description of example activities	<p>Any activity (play, learning, training and meeting) that staff undertake with children or adults that involves accessing lying water such as a beach, rivers, streams, deep puddles and includes use of the water pump in the garden area.</p> <p>Typical activities will be free play with children allowed to play around the edges of water. Dynamic RBAs will be conducted to assess individual competencies and depth/flow of water before decisions can be made as to whether children can freely enter the water.</p> <p>Other activities will include using the water as a learning opportunity, sampling, quality control, flow etc</p>
Our approach to risk	<p>Cambusbarron Village Nursery recognises 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, or risks that are overly common in interrupting normal work and play. For all activities, our staff will dynamically assesses risks and put in place control measures and record as required, but always within agreed and recorded RBAs.</p> <p>Concerns, changes in risk management practice or minor injuries that are deemed by staff to be significant should be reported to the Village Nursery's Board of Directors</p> <p>This RBA should be read in conjunction with Cambusbarron Village Nursery's Health and Safety Policy and other relevant Risk Benefit Assessments.</p>
Benefits	<p>Relaxation, physical, mental and social wellbeing improvements. Physical exercise and engaging with learning about physical risk taking and physical capabilities. Learning about natural environments and appreciation of them. Using natural environment to stimulate creativity, problem solving and general learning. Using local or different environments to support learning.</p>
Who will be at risk	<p>Children Parents Staff Members of the public</p>
Local factors affecting risks or controls	<p>Main access to water will be during Woodland Play sessions where the area is used for general recreation, biking and dog walking. Area used by members of the public. Water also present in the Village Nursery garden (running water from water pump and lying water for example in the tadpole "pond"), area also accessed by general public.</p> <p>Abilities and experience of attending children</p>

Potential Hazards:	Precautions and Controls used to reduce the likelihood of the risk occurring or the severity of the risk
<p>*All staff members hold a current first aid qualification and a first aid kit is always available.</p> <p>*Sessions supervised by trained and qualified staff with in depth knowledge of children present.</p> <p>*All staff involved in tool use have confirmed that they have read the CVN and WPS Handbooks, Fire, Ropes and Tool use guidance, health and safety policy, risk benefit analyses and risk assessments and understand the need to comply with the guidance therein.</p>	
General	Staff will ensure controls are in place, suitable to group and venue, to allow gathering and checking of group numbers. Awareness of contact between children and public will be maintained, and Staff or responsible adults intervening if required.
Drowning, even in shallow water.	Dynamic risk benefit assessment will be made of water courses and whether it is appropriate to go in. Children will be involved in this process and learn to gauge depth and flow of water and how it impacts on the danger. Children will be supervised closely by staff or responsible adults at all times near water.
Getting cut off by water flow in inclement weather.	Great care will be exercised where there is fast flowing, deep water. Staff will be aware of weather forecasts involving significant rainfall, and make judgements about how that will affect the venue.
Wet and slippery ground beside water	Staff will judge the competence of individuals and groups when moving on, or standing on slippery, loose or difficult terrain. Where necessary a group may need close supervision until their abilities and judgements improve.
Wet persons who are more susceptible to cold (hypothermia). Reflection of the sun on water increasing exposure to the sun and sunburn.	Precautions such as sun cream, extra clothing and shelter will be thought about and provided where needed, to prevent cold and heat injuries.
Bite or sting from aquatic creature.	Care will be taken, and groups involved in taking care, when looking at and picking up aquatic or marine flora and fauna.
Dangerous rubbish such as glass or faeces hidden by water.	Care will be taken when looking at and/or picking up rubbish or natural materials for activities or play. The area may be inspected prior to an event if staff have concerns due to amount and type of materials or the competency of a group.
Legionella	The most common way people get Legionnaires Disease is through inhaling very fine water droplets. Legionella cannot be caught by drinking tap water. Regular cleaning and maintenance of water play equipment. Outdoor water sources/stores are not in temperature ranges which promote legionella. Children reminded not to drink lying water.

Zoonosis - Leptospirosis (Weil's disease).	Children will be reminded not to drink water. Open wounds will be covered with a waterproof plaster.
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Precedents and Comparisons

A visit to water is a common occurrence for children, whether to the swimming pool, beach, local river or in the woods. Many paths and buildings are sited close to water as it is an attractive and relaxing place to spend time. Places for play are often designed to provide young children with the opportunity to test their boundaries through playing with natural elements such as water.

We have used information from
Grounds for Learning (Risk Benefit Assessments)
Play Safety Forum (Managing Risk in Play Provision)
Play Scotland (Getting it Right for Play)
Care Inspectorate (Positive approach to risk in play)
Scottish Water (Legionella Fact Sheet)
ROSPA (Weil's Disease)
to inform our assessment process

Judgement

Water, puddles, streams etc are a natural and frequent occurrence in Scotland. Playing at the water's edge or in the water brings more risk to an activity and will therefore always be supervised by a member of staff. Water play will be restricted when necessary by adults.