

NATURE PLAY SA EARLY LEARNERS GO WILD RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

Name of the program – Early Learners Go Wild at Wittunga (ELGW)

Site – Wittunga House and associated garden. 328 Shepherds Hill Road – School/ELC Excursions

Date of Assessment and review February 22 2021, and reviewed July 28, 2021.

Plan prepared by Nature Play SA Education Team (Maria Taylor) and CEO (Sarah Sutter)

Communicated to All Nature Play SA staff and sites hosting this program

Plan prepared using the Department for Education SA Risk Matrix

Nature Play SA will monitor the effectiveness of controls and change if necessary. This assessment will be reviewed every 6 months or if an incident or significant change occurs.

Description of the program where risks have been identified

- Early learning nature connection excursion
- Play with small loose parts (shells, seed pods, small log rounds and sticks, and bamboo)
- Build small cubbies using dowel, wood and other natural elements found on the ground.
- Create bee/seed bombs (balls) made with educator guidance using clay, seeds, water and soil
- Play with medium loose parts – which include sticks and log rounds
- Mud and clay play using water, sandy loam, brick sand and a range of pottery clays
- Ice and water play using wooden watercourses
- Not all experiences listed above will be offered in every program. Seasonal themes, learning intentions and weather conditions will guide inclusions/exclusions

Benefits of activity for learning outcomes of children

- Physical and sensory development, including coordination, balance, lifting, and awareness of senses in the environment.
- Promotion of positive dispositions for learning, including risk-taking and decision making.
- Development of confidence, self-esteem, creativity, and imagination.
- Literacy and numeracy learning through nature experiences and self-guided discovery.
- A play-based approach to supporting creativity, imagination, problem-solving, resilience, persistence, fine motor skills and multi-sensory experiences
- STEM learning, exploring engineering, designing, and constructing
- Biological sciences, germination, living and non-living things, engaging and exploring the senses
- Awareness of Aboriginal perspectives and an understanding of Aboriginal culture.

Non-negotiable elements of this activity

- Benefits outweigh risk 'when children encounter certain types of risks; it helps them learn to assess and manage risks' (Gill, 2007). Educating children about risk, challenges, limitations, and safety is part of the introduction brief.
- Site-based staff supervise children, and children to staff ratio reflect department/site/sector policy.
- The site is to give final approval for all resources used for the program, and adults and children are made aware of any risks and expectations.
- Children engage with natural elements and environments in a safe way, exploring new ideas and developing their natural creativity.
- The identified teacher in charge is deferred to regarding pastoral care of students (administering first aid and behaviour management)
- Both NPSA and the visiting school have the responsibility and right to relocate the excursion to an indoor space (Wittunga House) in the event of severe and extreme weather.

COVID-19 - Response - Additional Information

Nature Play SA is committed to supporting a safe environment for all by following all SA Government and health advice with reasonable adjustments to our incursion and excursion program implemented when necessary. The use of outdoor environments is key to our programs, and we support federal government advice for schools 'to teach outdoors when possible' through the delivery of our incursions.

Exposure to COVID-19 and associated response to COVID-19 and SA Health and Government Advice

Current SA Government and health guidelines inform all aspects of program delivery, including steps taken to cancel/reschedule when necessary and adjustments as dictated by SA Health and Government

- Nature Play SA is a COVID-safe workplace with required policies, protocols, and practises in place for all employees.
- Programs are delivered in expansive outdoor areas on school grounds.
- NPSA facilitator(s) will ensure they adhere to current social distancing best practice protocols.
- Students have access to individual workspaces within this open area when required.
- Resources can be individually distributed amongst students when necessary (no communal resources if required or requested.)
- Hand sanitiser and wipes are available.

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Hazard Identified – Loose Parts choking hazard

Preliminary Risk Assessment - Unlikely x Major = Moderate / Level of risk with control in place - Rare x Moderate = Low

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
Loose parts will be consistent with age-appropriate materials.	NPSA	On the day
Site staff to approve before materials are in use.	Site	Before program
Safety talk is given to everyone on the day. Staff reminded that supervision is vital.	NPSA and site	At all times

Hazard identified – Soil and seeds being ingested

Preliminary Risk Assessment - Unlikely x Moderate = Moderate / Level of risk with control in place - Rare x Minor = Low

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
Seeds used include common pantry items such as sunflower, bean and pea seeds.	NPSA	On the day
Sand is purchased from landscape yards (a controlled environment) and include brick sand and sandy loam.	NPSA	Before program
Any seeds or sand will be covered whenever not in use to avoid the possibility of wind-blown harm.	NPSA	Throughout program

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Hazard identified - Clay / play dough, mud or flowers being ingesting

Preliminary Risk Assessment - Unlikely x Minor = Low / Level of risk with control in place - Rare x Minor = Low

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
All items are non-toxic and cause no harm if ingested. Safety data sheet for clay provided upon request.	NPSA	Before program
Site based staff have sighted all resources and consented to their use.	Site	Before program
Children are constantly supervised, and duty of care is provided by site staff.	NPSA and site	Throughout program

Hazard Identified - Extreme weather conditions and severe weather warnings (as advised by BOM)

Preliminary Risk Assessment - Rare x Major = Moderate / Level of risk with control in place - Rare x Moderate = Low

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
NPSA staff will monitor weather conditions ahead of each booked program. Every effort will be made to move the program undercover or indoors in the event of inclement weather. In the event of an indoor space not being available, cancellations may be made (ideally) by 4 pm of the previous day based on BOM weather warnings or in response to a dynamic, extreme weather forecast at any time before or during the session.	NPSA Site staff	Before program Throughout program
Protective clothing worn (e.g., wide-brimmed hats in summer) and regular breaks provided for rehydration. Sites will ensure children are following sun-safe practices and drinking appropriate levels of water in hot weather.	Everyone	On the day
If the Wittunga Botanic Garden has been closed due to the risk of fire (catastrophic fire rating), the session will be postponed/cancelled.	NPSA	By 4pm day prior when possible

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Hazard Identified - Lost Children

Preliminary Risk Assessment - Rare x Moderate = Low / Level of risk with control in place - Rare x Moderate = Low

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
This excursion is held within the fence line of Wittunga House. The grounds of Wittunga House provide a clear boundary, and this area is outlined to all students and teachers at the start of the session.	NPSA	On arrival and throughout program.
The gate to Wittunga House will be closed during the session.	NPSA	
Teachers will provide one on one supervision for any students identified as needing support to stay within marked areas.	School staff	
Teachers/NPSA staff to actively supervise students and periodically survey the perimeter of the site. Bunting will be secured at the staff car park end of the building to provide a visual 'out of bounds' marker for all participants.	NPSA School staff	
Students are reminded to stay still (i.e. not wander) if they become separated from the group and respond to anyone calling out their names in a loud and clear voice.	NPSA	During safety briefing.
If a student has been identified as missing, the NPSA staff/teacher (s) will start looking, loudly calling out the student's name. One teacher will stay with the group in a clearly defined area until further notice. If the child is not found in 15 minutes, NPSA staff will be called to assist with the search. After 30 minutes, police will be called. Teaching staff to maintain supervision of the group whilst a search is underway.	NPSA staff to notify Botanic Gardens staff and co-ordinate call to police. Teacher to call parent/guardian.	

Hazard Identified - Snake Bite

Preliminary Risk Assessment - Unlikely x Major = Moderate / Level of risk with control in place - Rare x Major = Moderate

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
NPSA staff member conducts a site inspection before students arrive and communicates with garden staff about sightings and likely location(s) of snakes.	NPSA	Before program
Groups to stay a recommended distance from water and long grass during warmer months and children are alerted to the possible risk and what to do if snakes are seen (during safety briefing)	Everyone	Throughout program

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Hazard Identified - Falling Tree Branch

Preliminary Risk Assessment - Rare x Major = Moderate / Level of risk with control in place - Rare x Moderate = Low

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
Botanic Garden staff maintain the grounds of Wittunga house. Friends of Wittunga also undertake general gardening and maintenance on the grounds of Wittunga House. NPSA staff will ensure regular checks are made of the trees/grounds of Wittunga House. Staff perform a comprehensive site inspection prior to every program.	Botanic Gardens staff NPSA staff	Ongoing
Wittunga Botanic Garden staff are immediately alerted to any concern NPSA, or school staff have regarding overhead trees.	All staff	During program

Hazard Identified - Insect bite / sting

Preliminary Risk Assessment - Unlikely x Moderate = Moderate / Level of risk with control in place - Rare x Minor = Low

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
Everyone is wearing appropriate clothing and foot wear.	Everyone	Throughout program
Visiting groups bring along allergy information from parents and carry Emergency Action Plans, Epi-pens and Asthma Medication for relevant children as per school and sector wide requirements and protocols for excursions.	School staff	Before program

Hazard Identified - Personal safety and unwelcome interaction from people outside of the group.

Preliminary Risk Assessment - Rare x Moderate - Low / Level of risk with control in place - Rare x Moderate = Low

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
All staff and volunteers to have Teacher Registration or DCSI clearance / Working with Children Check and RAN training.	All staff	At all times.
Adult/child ratio as set per site is maintained and students are under constant supervision.	All staff	Throughout program

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Hazard Identified - Child hit by vehicle

Preliminary Risk Assessment - Unlikely x Major = Moderate = Moderate / Level of risk with control in place - Rare x Moderate = Low

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
Cones are put on road to alert users to children in the area. Front gate to Wittunga is shut for the duration of the excursion.	NPSA	Before program

The overall level of risk prior to measures = moderate Overall level of risk = low

Risk Matrix

Likelihood	Almost Certain	Possibility of occurrence more than 75% - expected to occur	Consequence	Critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical incident (eg 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
	Likely	Possibility of occurrence between 50% and 75% - probably will occur		Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple injuries requiring specialist medical treatment or hospitalisation; and/or major occupational health safety and welfare liability incident/issue Major incident which damages public or parent confidence
	Possible	Possibility of occurrence between 25% and 50% - may occur at some time		Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious injuries and/or illness Complex welfare and/or health care issue Serious disruption or incident, resulting in distress to children and adults
	Unlikely	Possibility of occurrence between 5% and 25% - could occur at some time		Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor first aid or minor occupational health safety and welfare liability incident/issue (eg minor cuts, bruises, bumps)
	Rare	Possibility of occurrence less than 5% - may never occur		Insignificant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No treatment required

Level of Risk

		Likelihood				
		Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost Certain
Consequence	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