

## NATURE PLAY SA FOUNDATIONS IN NATURE RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

**Name of the program** - Foundations in Nature Incursion (FIN)

**Site** - Early learning sites, pre-schools, and childcare centres. Program is predominantly held in outdoor learning environments within the grounds of an early learning site/childcare centre

**Date of Assessment and review** March 25 2019 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**

- Medium loose parts with log rounds and/or small sticks
- Potion making/mud kitchen experience grinding up and combining natural elements (e.g., flowers, soil) to make colourful and messy creations
- Use loose parts (shells, seed pods, small log rounds and sticks, and bamboo) to use with sensory play dough experience.
- Seed bombs (balls) made with educator guidance using clay, seeds, water, and soil

### **Benefits of activity for learning outcomes of children**

- Creativity, imagination, problem solving, resilience, persistence, fine motor skills, multi-sensory experiences
- STEM learning, exploring engineering, designing, and constructing
- Biological sciences, germination, living and non-living things, engaging and exploring the senses

**Non-negotiable elements of this activity**

- Benefits outweigh risk 'when children encounter certain types of risks, it helps them to learn to assess and manage risks' (Gill, 2007)
- Site-based staff always supervise children. Appropriate supervision – child to staff ratio reflects department/site/sector policy.
- Nature Play staff member is to manage all resources and facilitate the session.
- The site is to give final approval for all resources used for the program, and adults 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

**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.

## NATURE PLAY SA FOUNDATIONS IN NATURE RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

### Hazard Identified - Water use in trays and small tubs

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

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
Water use is in keeping with site approved, age-appropriate water troughs and trays.	NPSA	On the day
Trays will be shallow and partially filled with water to a depth no greater than 100mm. These will be used on low tables and not placed on the ground unless directly supervised.	Everyone	On the day
Give safety talk to everyone on the day. Supervision by staff is vital.	NPSA and Teacher in charge and all site-based staff	Before and on the day

### 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 in that setting.	NPSA	On the day
Site staff to approve before materials are in use.	Site	Before program
Safety talk was given to everyone on the day. Staff reminded that supervision is vital.	NPSA and site	Throughout program

## NATURE PLAY SA FOUNDATIONS IN NATURE RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

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 the possibility of wind-blown harm.	NPSA	Throughout program

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**

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

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
Site-based rules and regulations prevail, with all NPSA programs reflecting the site's procedures and protocols. In severe weather, the NPSA team reserves the right to amend or change the program as they see fit.	NPSA and site	Before and during program

**Hazard identified – Log rounds and sticks creating a splinter injury**

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

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
Maintain all resources with regular sanding and maintenance. All items are inspected before the program and any that look rough or hazardous will be removed.	NPSA	Before program

**Risk Matrix**

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

**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