

## NATURE PLAY SA WHITTLING AND WEAVING RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

**Name of the program** - Whittling and Weaving (WW)

**Site** - Primary school sites and outdoor learning environments across South Australia.

**Date of Assessment and review** 25th March 2019 and reviewed 27th July 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**

- Using handheld tools  
(e.g., introductory level whittling implements [peelers] to peel and carve sticks & plastic wool needles to do weaving/sewing work)
- Weaving with willow and other natural fibres such as jute, raffia, cotton, and grasses
- Decorating sticks with wool and twine.

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

- Opportuning for children to conduct their own risk assessments
- Develop cultural connections and understanding of technology from Aboriginal perspectives
- Opportunity for creative expression
- Core focus on development of 'soft skills and work habits such as problem-solving, persistence, resilience and independence
- Learning a new skill and understanding how to use tools constructively
- Supports wellbeing of students due to the calming nature of this well-regarded mindful activity

### **Non-negotiable elements of this activity**

- Benefits outweigh *risk when children encounter certain types of risks, and helps them to learn to assess and manage risks* (Gill, 2007)
- Educating children about risk, challenge and safety is part of introduction and brief.
- Site is to give final approval for all resources used for the program.
- Appropriate supervision is provided with student to staff ratio reflecting department /site /sector policy.
- Nature Play staff member is to manage all resources and facilitate the incursion.
- The identified teacher in charge is deferred to regarding pastoral care of students (administering first aid and behaviour management)
- Children engage with natural elements and environments in a safe way, exploring new ideas and developing their natural creativity.
- Appropriate and relevant training is given to all teachers and students involved, and risks and expectations are clearly communicated.
- Ensure all students are wearing gloves (on non-dominant hand)
- Providing sufficient space to allow safe use of tools ('blood bubbles')

### 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 WHITTLING AND WEAVING RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

### Hazard Identified - Whittling tool is inappropriate

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

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
The whittling tool is checked before the program to ensure the whittling tool has a short, fixed blade.	NPSA	Prior to session

### Hazard Identified - Splinter from wood

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

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
Wood is checked before the program to ensure it does not have any significant rough areas. Green' wood is used i.e., softer bark and wood from green fruit trees. Students are taught to work with the grain of the wood.	NPSA	Prior to session

### Hazard Identified - participant cut by tool

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

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
Children taught how to use tools correctly. Protective clothing (gloves) to be worn at all times. A 'Blood Bubble' (reasonable space around each student of at least 1 metre) is to be established and maintained. All staff have specific training in whittling.	NPSA NPSA and school	During safety briefing and demonstration

## NATURE PLAY SA WHITTLING AND WEAVING RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

Hazard Identified - inappropriate behaviour / inappropriate whittling technique

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

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
Students are given a thorough safety induction. There is a step-by-step demonstration of safe whittling practice before students are issued a whittling tool.	NPSA	Beginning of session
Signage and prompts remind everyone how to behave and move within the designated whittling area.	NPSA and school	Throughout session
Specific safety measures are included in the safety briefing as per the whittling and weaving manual (e.g. strike down and away towards the ground, create a triangle with elbows on knees and tool out in front of knees)		
Ensure appropriate adult supervision is maintained, with adults always positioned effectively for monitoring student technique and safety		

Hazard Identified - Tripping with a tool in hand

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

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
A working area is established with chairs in a clear and open area, ensuring the ground is flat and free from obstacles.	NPSA	Beginning of day
A distance of no less than 1m is established between each chair (the 'blood bubble') All staff to ensure 'blood bubble' is maintained. Tools to be kept under chairs at all times when not in use.	All staff	Throughout session

## NATURE PLAY SA WHITTLING AND WEAVING RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

Hazard Identified - allergy to willow leaves and branches

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

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
NPSA staff to ask site staff and students prior to session beginning of any known allergies. Gloves to be worn if unsure.	NPSA & Site Staff	Beginning and throughout session

Hazard Identified - bugs/insects present in willow

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

Reduction and control measures	Who	When
NPSA staff member to carefully select willow and check for insects or bugs before distribution.	NPSA	Before and during session

Hazard Identified - extreme weather conditions present a danger

Preliminary Risk Assessment - Unlikely x Major = 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 reserve the right to amend or change the program as they see fit.	NPSA and school staff	Before and during the program

## NATURE PLAY SA WHITTLING AND WEAVING RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

Overall preliminary assessment / risk = moderate

Overall assessment with control in place / risk = low

### Risk Matrix

<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Almost Certain</b>	Possibility of occurrence more than 75% - expected to occur	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<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>
	<b>Likely</b>	Possibility of occurrence between 50% and 75% - probably will occur		<b>Major</b>	<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>
	<b>Possible</b>	Possibility of occurrence between 25% and 50% - may occur at some time		<b>Moderate</b>	<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>
	<b>Unlikely</b>	Possibility of occurrence between 5% and 25% - could occur at some time		<b>Minor</b>	<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>
	<b>Rare</b>	Possibility of occurrence less than 5% - may never occur		<b>Insignificant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No treatment required</li> </ul>

### 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