

Benefit Risk Assessment Crossroads Nursery

Statement of Purpose

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) – 1989:

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

At Crossroads Nursery we are committed to children being able to experience challenging play and learning activities in the day-to-day environment of our setting and ***The Care Inspectorate 2016 My World Outdoors*** supports settings taking a positive approach to risk, to achieve the best outcomes for children.

Benefit Risk Assessment is used within our nursery to support the balance of benefits of an activity with any inherent risk, considering the risks while recognising the benefits to children and young people of challenging play experiences. As part of our commitment to provide a well-managed safe 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.

Health and Safety Executive, 2014, "Risk assessment. A brief guide to controlling risks in the workplace. (Leaflet INDG163 (rev4))"

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg163.pdf>

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 and ensure additional measures are in place for children with additional support needs if required.
- Identify how risks can be minimised and managed at a practical and proportionate level by implementing suitable control measures to reflect the level of risk Health and Safety Executive, 2012(19), "Children's Play and Leisure – Promoting a Balanced Approach."
- Establish appropriate supervision ratios.

Procedures at Crossroads include:

- A daily visual check of the nursery is undertaken to ensure that our rooms are in a good state of decoration and repair.
- Any furniture or resources that are damaged are removed for repair or disposal.

5.17 My environment is secure and safe.

- A cleaning record of resources is maintained, and every resource is cleaned before it is returned to storage.
- A daily visual check of the outside area occurs before each session, using the children where appropriate to support the risk assessment.

1.25 I can choose to have an active life and participate in a range of recreational, social, creative, physical, and learning activities every day both indoors and outdoors.

- Register is taken at the beginning of each session and parents/carers are required to share who is collecting their child at the end of the day.
- Staff record who has dropped off a child, who will collect the child, and any important messages on the sign in sheet.

- As children leave the nursery at the end of session, staff members ensure that all children are handed over to the recorded adult for collection.
 - Please see Pick Up and Drop Off Risk Assessment.
- Children are encouraged to participate in appropriate risky play that has been benefit risk assessed.

2.24 I make informed choices and decisions about the risks I take in my daily life and am encouraged to take positive risks which enhance the quality of my life. Play Safety Forum, 2012(second edition), "Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation guide"

- All staff are aware of our benefit risk assessments, where they can be accessed and read them annually.
- Updates to benefit risk assessments are shared throughout the year.
- Benefit risk assessments are written using guidance and advice from Benefit Risk Assessment training and are reviewed on an annual basis or sooner in response to an incident or updated guidance. Aberdeenshire Council, 2010, "Aberdeenshire Council Risk Assessment Guidance"
- Benefit risk assessments that relate to accessing our local community are taken by a staff member on these outings to enable information to be accessed immediately if required.
 - Please see outings procedure for further information.

3.25 I am helped to feel safe and secure in my local community.

- When participating in any outdoor activities appropriate benefit risk assessment will have been carried out to include a risk assessment of the environment as well as any travel to or from the outdoor area being used.
- 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 risk or infection or injury that staff need to be aware of.
- Where a one off or unique activity is being undertaken, a risk assessment specific to this activity will be undertaken and recorded.
- Staff endeavour to visit any locations prior to outings carry out benefit risk assessments, ensuring they are relevant.

Monitoring

It will be the responsibility of the Early Years Senior Practitioner and Early Years Lead Practitioner to ensure that new or temporary staff are familiar with this policy and to monitor that it is being implemented by all staff. This will be achieved through observation, regular monitoring of benefit risk assessments and reviewing/amending policies procedures in line with any changes to an activity or process.

Training on Benefit Risk Assessment can be found at:

<https://aldo.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/>

Key Documents

- Scottish Government, 29th August 2022, “Coronavirus (COVID-19): early learning and childcare services. Guidance for early learning, school aged childcare and childminder settings on reducing the risks of COVID-19.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-learning-childcare-services/>

- Health and Safety Executive 2014, “Risk assessment. A brief guide to controlling risks in the workplace. (Leaflet INDG163(rev4),”

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg163.pdf>

- Care Inspectorate, 2016, “My World Outdoors”

http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/3091/My_world_outdoors_-_early_years_good_practice_2016.pdf

- Health and Safety Executive, 2012(19), “Children’s Play and Leisure – Promoting a Balanced Approach”

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/childrens-play-july-2012.pdf>

- Aberdeenshire Council, "Aberdeenshire Council Risk Assessment Guidance", 2010

<http://arcadialite.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/risk-assessment-guidance/>

- Aberdeenshire Council,

https://evolve.edufocus.co.uk/evco10/evchome_public.asp?domain=aberdeenshirecouncil-excursions.org.uk – EVOLVE risk assessment log in

- Play Safety Forum, 2012(second edition), “Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation guide”

<https://www.playscotland.org/resources/managing-risk-in-play-provision-implementation-guide-2nd-edition-4/>