CORNHILL Risk Benefit Assessment – ELC OUTDOOR SPACE INFECTION CONTROL



Reviewed **13/11/20**, **23/2/21**, **7/5/21**

Line Manager name:	Miss G Devlin	Line Manager signature	Assessment No:
Date: August 2020	Assessed by:	Location:	Review date: As and when required with
	Signature:	Activity:	updated guidance

What has the potential to cause harm (hazards) and what harm might result?	Who and how many people might be at risk?	What measures are already in place?	S e v e ri t y	L i k e li h o d	R is k ra ti n g	What further action (s) needs to be taken to reduce risk	By whom and by what date
The use of enclosed spaces for snack or shelter from the elements Spread of infection	Children Staff	 Use of tarps for shelter. Good ventilation. Ensure social distancing of adults is maintained in these spaces. 				Consider individual needs of each child and adjust protocols safely. Ensure shelters are well-ventilated. One adult to be responsible for snack. Children not involved in preparation for this specific period of time. Usual hygiene and cleaning procedures adhered to.	

Lack of cleaning schedules for outdoor provision Resulting in cross-infection, sickness and illnesses	Children Staff	 Health Protection Scotland Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings guidance is followed: Cleaning schedules are in place and followed for keeping the outdoor space and resources sufficiently clean. Morning/Afternoon children to have their own equipment/resources, unless this can be cleaned between sessions, in line with national guidance or quarantined 	Be aware of any children who may be more prone to infections/illness.New cleaning record/rota created.Cleaning records kept and signed at the end of each session.Resources between sessions will not be shared unless cleaned inbetween or quarantined for 72 hours first.Staff members responsible for cleaning touch points during session.Fewer resources on offer. Easily cleaned resources only. No soft furnishings/ teddies at this point.
Poor personal hygiene Resulting in cross-infection, sickness and illnesses, especially COVID-19	Staff and children	 Handwashing procedures and hygiene followed in toilet area, (not outside) Toilets are close enough to outdoor area and are closely supervised and monitored) Handwashing station potentially set up in N3. Staff and children wash their hands using warm or tepid running water and biodegradable liquid soap. Hand sanitiser is available for adults to use. Open wounds are covered with a waterproof plaster or equivalent. 	Individual staff to follow this guidance and be challenged by others if not perceived to comply with this. Update risk assessments in line with any changes to national and local guidance. Check staff and children with skin conditions ie dermatitis for adverse reactions to soap used.

		Should there be a reaction, parents will be encouraged to give their child their own soap/sanitizer if skin becomes affected. Staff must understand that hand sanitisers are only effective on clean hands to make them ultra clean. These do not replace hand washing outside with soap and water. Hands will be washed on entry to and exit from nursery in addition to other key times during the session.
Unintended breaches of 2m social distancing rule COVID-19 spread of infection	 Adults to maintain social distancing where possible Minimise physical contact with the person – e.g. no hand shaking. Consideration given to emergency evacuation procedures/ fire drill & muster point from the outdoor space Ensure that all staff understand protocols outlined in this risk assessment. 	https://www.gov.scot/public ations/coronavirus-covid-19 -guidance-on-reopening-ea rly-learning-and-childcare-s ervices/pages/infection-pre vention-and-control/PT/SEYP to monitor that all staff are adhering to the 2m rule social distancing rule.Parents reminded to adhere to 2m distancing rule.Parents reminded to

		Social distance measures between adults. Walkie-talkies used between nursery staff and SMT during fire drill.
Parent drop off or pick up from outdoor space Risk of infection and transmission of COVID-19	 All adults should maintain physical distancing principles. Sufficient space available for a parent to remain with their child if needed without coming into contact with other staff, children or families Drop off/pick up systems must not block access and create pedestrian blockage. Sufficient space for social distancing with due regard for other users with disabilities. Staff to be in charge of sign in book. Parents strongly advised to wear face coverings at drop off/pick up. 	Waiting points marked on the ground for parents, to ensure 2m distancing at drop off/pick up time.Parents to wait on pavement at signposted area if there are no markings left to stand on in garden area.All children enter through their designated gate, greeted by nursery staff – with distancing adhered to between staff and parents.Clear space between N1 and N2 waiting areas.Staff in charge of handling sign in book – parents will no longer sign in themselves during this period.
	Hand hygiene facilities outside.	Hand sanitiser to be made available for parents involved in inductions. Children/staff to wash/sanitise before going outside and re-entering building.

Outdoor toileting Bacterial infection or COVID-19 infection through failure to use effective, toileting, hand hygiene and cleaning procedures	Children	No outdoor toilets – toilet in close proximity to garden areas. Clear and controlled handwashing procedures in place.	Consult the guidance in Ot to Play, p32-37 Handwashing process and technique posters displayed in toilet area. Children supervised as they wash hands. ASN children will be supported to wash hands if necessary. Paper towels to be placed in bin. Children understand the
			importance of washing hands – reinforced at home also.

CORNHILL Risk Benefit Assessment – ELC OUTDOOR SPACE

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What has the potential To cause harm (hazards) and what harm might result?	Who and how many people might be at risk?	What measures are already in place?	S e v e r i t y	L i k e l i h o d	R isk R atin g	What further action (s) needs to be taken to reduce risk?	By whom and by what date?
Inadequate supervision Leading to a variety of accidents. Increased likelihood of Children running away	Children	 Staff deployed in line with national guidance to ensure adequate supervision within the totality of the ELC setting, inside and out. Ratios of staff to children is the same as indoors 1:10 and adapted where necessary to meet needs of specific children and the unique nature of the outdoor space. Staff undertake a daily register of all children present. Adults keep a sharp eye on the whereabouts of all children at all times. The nursery follows school procedures for absconding children. Outdoor space is secure OR working boundaries are known and abided by, e.g. when using part of the wider school grounds. 				 PT/SEYPs to check guidance for latest updates regularly and amend this risk assessment accordingly. Staff to keep a headcount to ensure the ratio of adults to children is adhered to. Daily sign in book taken outside and used for reference. Children "sign out" with pegs and picture cards if they opt to play outside. Staff vigilant at observing whereabouts of children, especially if the child goes inside for the toilet etc. Nursery grounds gates closed at all times during session and gate handle out of reach of the children. Children aware of boundaries which will have been discussed prior to going outside. (ie not 	

Ability Failure to understand and follow instructions can lead to a variety of accidents.	Children Staff	 The ability of the children is taken into account when setting up and planning for the outdoor space. Additional support for specific children is given to help them access quality provision. New equipment and resources are introduced to the children in ways which allow them to explore safely. For example, a member of staff allocated to be near the resource and support children to explore and consider any safety issues. Staff use common sense, knowledge of children and play and dynamically risk assess. 	using chute, staying off wet logs on rainy day etc)The needs of the children are taken into account and monitored during outdoor play.Prior info re ASN children will have been gathered virtually/by phone and will equip staff with the knowledge they need to ensure the safety of the child outside.Individual pupil risk assessments completed if necessary.Risk benefits will have been discussed with the children prior to outdoor play.Any 'risky play' resources will be manned by a member of staff.
Unsuitable resources for children Leading to a variety of injuries	Children	 In line with the Loose Parts Play: A Toolkit (2nd Ed) p29, every resource is checked prior to being used by children. New resources are introduced with care, and where needed, additional supervision and direct instructions so children understand the safety aspects, where the resource is stored and any other relevant factors. Observations of children playing enable staff to reflect on the suitability of a resource in terms of its learning and play value. There are systems in place for cleaning, repairing, removing and disposing of a resource wisely with due regard for the environmental impact. 	Part of morning routine - all resources checked prior to the start of a session, and at end.Any risky play resources will be discussed with the children to ensure they understand and adhere to the safety aspects.Child led learning observations enable staff to change/rotate resources accordingly.Any broken/damaged resources removed by nursery staff/janitor and recorded.

		Any injuries/near misses recorded. Details shared with parents. Forms double signed by staff.Staff to review resources being used at the end of each session for any faults/dangers.Reduced amount of resources on offer to the children for the time being to cut length of cleaning process and decrease chances of spread of infection.Children to be shown how to use new resources, how to identify any risks and what to do if they find broken/damaged equipment.Visuals sometimes used to help children with tidying up – photos of what the resource boxes/equipment should look like when they are finished with	
Thrown, dropped or colliding objects and people Leading to a variety of impact injuries and death	 We have : A positive approach to behaviour management that mitigates most intentional inappropriate behaviours An engaging and interesting outdoor environment Practical reminders given by staff and other pupils. Dynamic risk assessment undertaken by staff and children. 	and are tidy. Staff will use stories, scenarios	

		 Unforeseeable, unintentional and accidental situations are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. 	Adults to risk assess outdoor area/resources daily and children to be included in their own daily risk assessments/tick
Built structures collapsing through lack of maintenance, damage, vandalism, poor design Leading to impact injuries, crush injuries, head injuries, death	Children Staff	 Dynamic risk assessment by staff Homemade structures dismantled daily if need arises System of checks in place for semi-permanent structures created by adults and children. 	Climbing walls, dens etc to be dismantled daily if appropriate. Regular checks on safety of homemade outdoor resources. Report any damages. Remove any broken/weathered resources.
Broken equipment Through play or vandalism, etc. Causes a variety of accidents.	Children Staff	 All faulty or broken equipment is cordoned off, labelled as faulty and reported to the janitor for repair or removal. 	Daily Garden checks Damages reported Remove broken resources
Working at height Falls leading to impact injuries or impalement	Children Staff Volunteer s	 Staff dynamically risk assess children using high equipment – installed or otherwise. Children and staff check ground and surrounds for protruding objects within the fall zone and keep these spaces clutter free. Staff have an agreed approach to managing play at height. 	Ensure safety of climbing walls and tree swing. Staff and children to risk assess playground every day before use.

		 Installed playground equipment that facilitates children playing at height, has an impact attenuating surface underneath installed by a reputable company that meets BSEN 1177 standard. Storage of resources ensures that only lightweight resources are stored up high. Staff know how to access these safely, using correct equipment. Resources and equipment are not stored in a way that facilities access to the roof of the main building or other high up place. 	Blue container and N3 sheltered area not to store any heavy items in high positions.
Litter	Children Staff Volunteer s	 The outdoor space is checked daily before or at the start of the session – for litter, playground equipment and surfaces. There is a checklist for this purpose. Drug materials are removed by a competent person in line with local authority guidance. Gloves are used to remove glass and the material placed in a cardboard or metal container before placing in the bin. Animal scat is removed in line with local authority guidance on biological agents. 	
Spread of infection from poor food hygiene practice Leading to sickness, diarrhoea and outbreaks of infections, e.g. E.Coli	Children Staff Volunteer s	 Local authority food hygiene policy and procedures are applied to cooking and eating outside. 	Infection prevention & control guidance adhered to if/when snack eaten outside. Infection Prevention policy updated to take account of COVID times.
		 First aid kit and qualified staff in centre. Parents are advised not to send their child to nursery if they are concerned about their health and feel they are not well enough to be outside. 	Staff will implement good food hygiene. PPE worn where necessary. Handover from parent in morning – if child ill – will not stay for session.

Manual handling Back injury through lifting, crouching and using heavy equipment Crush injury if heavy item is dropped onto any part of a person's body.	Children Staff Volunteer s	 Adults lift any heavy equipment in line with setting, local authority and national HSE guidelines. Adults model good practice including when crouching to work at child or ground level. Heavy items are not stored high up. Children shown how to lift and carry heavy resources appropriately should they attempt this during their play Loose parts systematically checked prior to being made available for play for potential crush risk 	Be aware of any specific medical needs of adults which may affect their ability to carry items.Staff to ensure heavier objects are lifted by janitorial staff or in pairs, and in the correct way.Children can be trained in how to lift bigger objects, carefully.Look at manual handling guidance for children in the Loose Parts Play: A Toolkit (2 nd Ed) p29 http://bit.ly/2NXizaf
Slips and trips People slip and trip on uneven surfaces leading a variety of impact injuries	Children Staff Volunteer s	 Children wear suitable clothing and footwear for being outside in accordance with their own individual need. On icy days or particularly inclement weather, the ratio of adults to child may alter or the numbers accessing the outdoor space reduced. Key areas of the outdoor space are gritted during cold weather, e.g. entrance areas and other access points. Systems in place for tidying resources that children play with outside. A place for keeping resources that are not in use is identified. Everyone knows how and where to leave the resources. Staff dynamically risk assess and ensure resources are not left lying around where they could become a trip hazard. 	Janitor to carry out any required gritting.N1/2 not to run on blue area when wet.N1,2,3 not to use logs when wet etcNot sharing clothes – encouraged to take in own from home. If school clothes, photo labels can display who it belongs to.Clear, covered boxes or rails used for school based outdoor clothing.Regular washing of school outdoor clothing.

				be taken home daily and washed as required. Induction booklet informs parents of suitable clothing. Suitable outdoor clothing photos added to blog. Suitable footwear outside – no sharing of school supply unless sprayed and cleaned afterwards and quarantined for 72 hours. Children clear about garden rules. Labelled boxes for resources – kept at outer edge of garden area.
Entrapment Trapped or broken limbs, head, neck or fingers leading to injured joints, strangulation and death	Children Staff Volunteer s	 Any resource, including loose parts, is systematically checked prior to being made available for play for potential entrapments Children's constructions are checked by staff through dynamic risk assessment Rope, string and long things are brightly coloured or clearly visible. Children have been specifically taught the safety elements around their use. See separate RBA. 		See Loose Parts Play: A Toolkit (2 nd Ed) for the flowchart on p29 that has a list of hazards to check <u>http://bit.ly/2NXizaf</u> Staff check resources daily. Children help to risk assess. Any broken/faulty equipment removed. Staff supervision of risky play. Appropriate risk assessment of loose parts resources.

Security Unwanted visitors into the grounds Stray dogs in grounds Potential for bites, assault and abduction	Children Staff Volunteer s	 Outdoor space is secure OR working boundaries are known and abided by, e.g. when using part of the wider school grounds Any unauthorised persons entering the outdoor space are only be approached if staff are satisfied they are not putting themselves or children at risk. The centre has procedures for parents/carers dropping off and collecting children from the outdoor space. The centre has emergency procedures e.g. assembly point, other place of safety, evacuation plan, etc. Local authority guidance for stray dogs in the grounds is followed. 	Parents only have access to garden area only and are clear about drop off/pick up and 2m distancing rules etc.No parents allowed in buildings at this point.Inductions carried out in garden areas.Secure fencing in all nursery garden/playground areas.Staff vigilant if any unknown adults hovering.No access for dogs due to high gates/fences.Gates closed at all times during session and locked at end of day.All staff are aware of fire procedures and muster points – adults to remain 2m apart.
Trees Old age, disease or structure leads to limbs dropping or tree falling over. Crush injuries	Children Staff Volunteer s	 Trees in school grounds or designated outdoor space are checked on an annual basis or more often by aboricultural team or specialist tree service Refer to separate Woodland and Tree Climbing RBA 	Tree checks - by staff and any concerns passed on to janitor.
Confined spaces Collisions and impact injuries		Activities requiring large amounts of space happen in an alternative area, e.g. beyond designated outdoor space in school grounds.	Field can be used if required – separate risk assessment to be carried out if this is the case.
Water Death through drowning	Children Staff	Staff dynamically risk assess	

Accidental ingestion of outdoor water, e.g. drinking puddle water or from a water butt or unemptied water tray or an outside tap. Resulting in sickness, diarrhoea and a range of possible infections including Legionnaire's disease Fungal growth due to storage of wet items Cross-contamination through shared resources	Volunteer s	 Adequate supervision Ponds have grill and are raised above ground or are fenced off. Water butt has a lid/cover to prevent debris such as leaves accumulating. Children cannot access the inside of the water butt. Water butts and pump barrels are emptied and cleaned on a regular basis to avoid build-up of scum algae if used for play. Children and adults do not use water from outdoor sources for drinking or handwashing. All children wash their hands as they enter and leave the outdoor space and before or after any activity involving sand, water, mud or gardening. Accumulated water in equipment outside is emptied daily, e.g. in tyres, buckets, etc. Wet resources are dried thoroughly before storing especially before a w/end or holiday Cleaning procedures in place in line with HPS <i>Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings</i> are followed. Where necessary, equipment and resources for water play are cleaned, quarantined or allocated to a social bubble for use within this cohort of children. 	 Only water trays used, no ponds, butts etc available. Any off site trips near water be individually risk assesse ABERDEEN council Children wash hands before and after outdoor play in toilet area as this is in close proximity. Children to wash hands before/after using sand/water Currently no ponds/water butts in our nursery area. Different resources used for am/pm groups or cleaned in between/quarantined if necessary. Resources sprayed and left to air dry before storing away.
Bacterial or viral infection through contact with naturally-occurring materials and plants and mud Leading to a range of possible illnesses		 Hand washing procedures and protocols in place outdoors that everyone knows and follows in line with Health Protection Scotland Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings guidance. 	Where necessary equipment and resources for mud play are removed, or reduced in quantity. Cleaning/Quarantining of equipment allocated to specific sessions/groups of children.

CORNHILL Risk Benefit Assessment – SAND AND MUD PLAY OUTDOORS

Line Manager name:

Line Manager signature

Date:	Assessed by:	Location:	Review date:
	Signature:	Activity:	
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This is a Live Template of a risk assessment identifying typical hazards and control measures for outdoor play. Staff should add specific details relevant to each venue and on a regular basis. Delete elements that are not relevant.

What has the potential to cause harm (hazards) and what might result?	Who and how many people might be at risk?	What measures are already in place?	S e v e r i t y	L i k e l i h o d	R i s k r a t i n g	What further action(s) needs to be taken to reduce risk?	By whom and by what date?
Sand blow or throw – into eyes - Irritated eyes, scratched corneas	Teacher Auxiliary Pupils	 Sandpit covered at overnight, reducing wind blow First aid for irritated eyes Behaviour strategies applied for each child in accordance with IEP and/or personal plan 				No large sand pits – tuff trays only. Sprinkle sand with water on windy and sunny days (a job for children) Ensure children are familiar with sand play rules.	
Bringing sand indoors Whilst not a health concern, sand inside can get into IT equipment and resources.	Teacher Auxiliary Pupils	 Outdoor clothing available for children to wear, Mat for wiping feet at inside door. Shower caps or hats for head, if getting sand in hair is an issue Brushes available for brushing down /off sand from clothing outside Sand on indoor floors and surfaces swept up. Children wash hands after playing in sand/prior to coming inside 				Not really an issue as we don't have a walk in sand pit, only tuff trays. It can be helpful to train children to give a wiggle and a shake before leaving a sandpit so that the sand stays there as much as possible.	
Presence of animal faeces Leading to bacterial infections and possible COVID-19 transmission	Staff children	 Monitor situation as animal behaviours do change over time with fluctuating populations. Rake sand at end of each day during monitoring period to find hidden excrement deposited by night time visitors. 				N/A – No walk in sand pit – tuff trays used and taken in after use.	

		 Sand pit is covered at night, ideally with mesh or netting or closed off, e.g. in a hut Children asked to check their hands have no cuts or grazes. Open wounds are covered with a plaster or equivalent. Children encouraged to wash hands before and after playing with sand. If faeces or bird droppings are discovered then the patch of sand is treated in line with dealing with spillages of blood and body fluids (as per HPS <i>Infection Prevention & Control Guidance in Childcare Settings</i>, May 2018) Sand cleaned in line with RoSPA guidance – this is built into cleaning schedules for outdoor space. 	See RoSPA Sand Play in Children's Areas <u>https://www.rospa.com/play-</u> <u>safety/advice/sand-play/</u> Handwashing procedures applied.
Build-up of bacteria due to sandpit remaining covered and unused Bacterial infection Open wounds on hands	Staff Children	 Sand raked and played in daily. Cover removed daily to allow sunshine and air to access sandpit. Health Protection Scotland advice followed with regard to hand hygiene. First aid kit and qualified staff in centre. Regular disinfecting of sand and thorough raking/forking weekly and at the start of each term 	N/A Tuff trays of sand cleaned regularly. Separate tray for different sessions.



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 Adverse weather which includes: High winds: falling trees and branches; wind borne debris Thunder and lightning 	Children Staff Volunteer s	 Checks and closures Weather conditions are checked daily and the daily routines and outdoor experiences adjusted accordingly. Nursery closure procedures in place – parents and carers are aware of these. Off-site visits reviewed during adverse weather 				Weather-related checks are included in daily site check list of outdoor area. School Closure information on school website.	
 Heavy snow or hail Hot, sunny weather Adverse weather which may lead to: Hypothermia Hyperthermia 		 Appropriate clothing and footwear Children and staff are wearing appropriate clothing and footwear for the prevailing weather, including accessories. There are sufficient spares of all clothing to ensure all children and staff can stay and play outside as much as they wish. Staff and children have their own outdoor clothing and footwear that is identifiable to the owner. 				Parents made aware during induction and through newsletters the items of outdoor clothing that are required. Children should have their own outdoor clothes as much as possible.	

- Sunstroke, sunburn and dehydration
- Impact injuries through slips and trips
- Head injuries
- Impalement injuries

Sunny weather

- Sunscreen is applied in line with ELC setting policy. Sun hat and long-sleeved clothing worn by children and modelled by adults.
- Spare drinking water available on site and on off-site visits.
- Activities in shady places are encouraged by staff.

Windy weather

- Consider the risks of materials being blown about in windy weather. Resources available are suitable for windy weather
- Structures have been identified which may need tying down or secured. There is a system for doing this.
- System in place to ensure children and staff able to hear and follow instructions.

Snow, ice, hail and weather below freezing

- Wind chill factor is taken into account.
- Adequate clothing and shelter available
- Sufficient heating available in indoor or sheltered spaces to warm up children and staff and dry clothing.

Borrowed items will be sprayed and quarantined.

Children bring own supply of (labelled) cream, which will have been used previously to ensure no adverse reactions.

Nursery will have own supply of cream but will only be used if parents give consent.

Sun hats encouraged.

Water bottles used by children.

Dens/shelters created for providing shade.

Staff judgement if safe to play outside or not if very windy.

If so, items secured so they will not cause damage or injury.

Staff judgement if safe to play outside or not if very windy.

Sufficient spare clothing, accessories and footwear should be available for children who need it. This should be stored and

 Staff actively encourage children to move around and find ways to keep warm. 	covered where it can be easily accessed.Parents to be encouraged to ensure children have 2 changes of clothing and
	songs and rhymes can be useful to keep children moving.
• Areas of outdoor space are gritted prior to children's arrival to reduce slips and trips in identified key areas of movement, e.g. entrance	Janitor to grit paths for parents/children and playground areas.
 areas, access paths. Outdoor space may be reduced or numbers of children accessing outdoor space may be limited, 	Staff to consider smaller groups out at a time, and for shorter periods if very cold – for sake of staff as well as children.
Access to building In the event of extreme weather, parents informed in advance to make the decision whether their child attends nursery in light of limited indoor space.	Groupcall for parents. Make parents aware that in extreme weather this may be the case/situation.