



**The Burrow**  
**Policies and Procedures**  
**3. Our Community**



The Burrow is committed to Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Young People and expects all staff, students and volunteers to do the same. Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility

### **3.9 Risk Benefit Assessment**

#### **Policy statement**

We believe that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers by assessing the extent of risks encountered and weighing that against the benefits of taking those risks, then minimising hazards and unacceptable risks to enable everyone to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.

Risk benefit assessment means:

***taking note of aspects of your workplace and activities that risk causing harm, either to yourself or to others, determining whether the benefits of taking that risk outweighs the risk itself, and deciding what needs to be done to prevent unreasonable harm, making sure this is adhered to.***

The law does not require that all risk is eliminated, but that 'reasonable precaution' is taken. This is particularly important when balancing the need for children to be able to take appropriate risks, and manage them effectively, through physically challenging play and activities for learning. Children need the opportunity to work out what is not safe and what they should do when faced with a risk.

Health and safety risk benefit assessments inform procedures. Staff are involved in making and reviewing risk benefit assessments, as they are the ones with first-hand knowledge as to whether the control measures are effective and can give an informed view to help update procedures accordingly.

This policy is based on these five steps:

- Identification of a risk: Where is it and what is it?
- Who is at risk: staff, children, parents, etc?
- Assessment as to whether the level of a risk is high, medium or low. This takes into account both the likelihood of it happening, as well as the possible impact if it did
- Determination as to whether the risk presented by an activity/resource/environment/etc outweighs the benefits obtained from it.
- Control measures to reduce/manage risk: What will we, or others, need to do to reduce/manage risk?
- Monitoring and review: How do we know if the measures we have taken are working, or are thorough enough? If they are not working, they will need to be amended, or maybe there is a better solution.

#### **Procedures**

- The Manager undertakes training and ensures our staff have adequate training in health and safety matters
- It is determined where it is helpful to make some written **Risk Assessments (App 3.9a)** in relation to specific issues, in order to inform staff practice, and to demonstrate how we are managing risks if asked by parents/carers and Inspectors
- Checks are made for risks indoors and outside, in relation to our premises and activities, and hazards are noted
- The level of risk and who might be affected is assessed

- An action plan is developed for any areas needing attention, specifying the action required, the time-scales for action, the person responsible for the action and any funding required
- Written risk assessments are reviewed regularly
- We maintain a **Premises Check List (App 3.9c)** of certain health and safety issues which are checked daily before the session begins or weekly on a specified day, as well as those that are checked on a termly basis, when a full risk assessment is carried out
- The Business Manager ensures that checks, such as electricity and gas safety checks, and any necessary work to the setting premises, are carried out
- The Manager ensures that staff members carry out **Risk Assessments (App 3.9a)** for work practice that includes:
  - woodland play
  - outside play areas
  - inside play areas
  - certain activities such as cooking, woodwork, climbing
  - preparation and serving food and drink, including children with allergies
  - suitability, use and storage of equipment and resources
  - storage and use of substances which may be harmful to health, such as cleaning chemicals
- The manager carries out further Risk Assessments for:
  - **Allegations made against staff or volunteers (App 3.9b)**
  - incidents involving threats against staff or volunteers
  - visitors to the setting
  - off-site activities e.g. children's outings
  - children with SEND or additional needs, including medical needs.

**Signed:** *L.B. Mee*

**Name:** Lynn Mee

**On behalf of The Burrow Nursery**