**MANCHESTER PRESCHOOL**

**MANAGING RISK IN PLAY PROVISION**

**PURPOSE:**

* This policy will deliver clear and concise guidelines to ensure that an appropriate set of safety procedures are upheld when children are being afforded opportunities to participate in risky play.
* This policy will ensure that risk/benefit assessments are completed for all play scenarios that have been identified as including an element of risk which may compromise the health, safety or wellbeing of the children.
* This policy will ensure that a process of ‘dynamic risk assessment’ is utilised to measure minute by minute risk potential.
* This policy will make explicit the ‘duty of care’ of the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor and other educators when providing risk-taking opportunities during play.
* This policy will ensure that at all times all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the health, well-being and safety of the children when participating in risky play.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

**1. VALUES**

 is committed to:

* providing opportunities for children to participate in risky play and acknowledges that such play is an essential component of children’s happy and healthy development.
* increasing child’s age-appropriate understanding of environmental protection and sustainability issues.
* ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children attending the service.
* meeting its duty of care obligations under the law.

**2: SCOPE**

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of .

**3: BACKGROUND LEGISLATION**

Under the National Law and Regulations (NQF), early childhood services are required to protect children from any harm or hazards and adequately supervise children at all times. Adult supervision is a key factor in creating and maintaining child safe environments. Active supervision together with risk minimisation strategies can prevent or reduce risks to children. Risk minimisation strategies supported by clear policies and procedures for specific areas of child safety will help ensure the environment and practices at the service are child safe.

**Legislation and Standards**

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

* *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic), as amended 2011
* *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic), as amended 2012
* *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for Children)
* *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*: Section 167
* *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*: Regulations 96, 99, 102, 160, 161, 168(2)(m), 170
* *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth), as amended 2011
* *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety
	+ Standard 2.3: Each child is protected

**4: SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES**

**Sources**

* Childsafety Australia:
* [**www.childsafetyaustralia.com.au/**](http://www.childsafetyaustralia.com.au/)
* Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide (Play England)

[**http://www.playengland.org.uk/media/172644/managing-risk-in-play-provision.pdf**](http://www.playengland.org.uk/media/172644/managing-risk-in-play-provision.pdf)

* Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA):

[**www.acecqa.gov.au**](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)

**Service Policies**

* Child Safe Environment
* Supervision of Children
* Administration of First Aid
* Emergency and Evacuation
* Food Safety
* Hygiene
* Environment and Sustainability
* Occupational Health and Safety
* Participation of Volunteers and Students
* Interactions with Children
* Inclusion and Equity
* Complaints and Grievances
* Record Keeping

**PROCEDURES:**

**The Approved Provider is Responsible for:**

* ensuring that parents/guardians have access to this policy
* ensuring that the Nominated Supervisor and all staff follow the policies and procedures of the service
* ensuring children are adequately supervised and that educator-to-child ratios are maintained at all times (refer to *Supervision of Children Policy* and *Interactions with Children Policy*)
* ensuring the physical environment at the service is safe, secure and free from hazards for children (refer to the *Service policies* section of this policy)
* ensuring all equipment and materials used at the service meet relevant safety standards (refer to *Service policies* section of this policy)
* implementing and practising emergency and evacuation procedures (refer to *Emergency and* *Evacuation Policy*)
* ensuring the conduction of risk/benefit assessments for specific risky play scenarios considering children’s safety (*see attachments)*
* Ensuring the utilisation of a ‘dynamic risk assessment flow chart’ for minute by minute assessment of risky play scenarios (*see attachment 1*)
* implementing and reviewing this policy in consultation with the Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff, contractors and parents/guardians
* identifying and providing appropriate resources and training to assist educators, staff, visitors, volunteers and students to implement this policy (refer to *Sources*)
* protecting the rights of children and families, and encouraging their participation in decision-making
* ensuring the Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff, contractors, volunteers and students are kept informed of any relevant changes in legislation and practices in relation to this policy

 **The Nominated Supervisor is Responsible for:**

* following the policy and procedures of the service
* ensuring that all educators and staff who work with children are aware of this policy, and are supported to implement it in the service
* protecting the rights of children and families, and encouraging their participation in decision-making at the service
* ensuring that all children are adequately supervised at all times (refer to *Supervision of Children* *Policy* and *Interactions with Children Policy*)
* ensuring learning environments are established that provide sufficient space, and include carefully chosen and well-maintained resources and equipment that will help enhance the quality of children’s learning and experiences
* ensuring all equipment and materials used at the service meet relevant safety standards (refer to the *Service policies* section of this policy)
* ensuring that all visitors sign in to the visitor’s log book
* conducting risk/benefit assessments for specific risky play scenarios considering children’s safety (*see attachments)*
* utilising a ‘dynamic risk assessment flow chart’ for minute by minute assessment of risky play scenarios (*see attachment 1*)
* implementing and practising emergency and evacuation procedures (refer to *Emergency and* *Evacuation Policy*)
* implementing and reviewing this policy in consultation with the Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff, contractors and parents/guardians
* identifying and providing appropriate resources and training to assist educators, staff, volunteers and students to implement this policy (refer to *Sources*)
* keeping up to date and complying with any relevant changes in legislation and practices in relation to this policy.

**Certified Supervisors and other Educators are Responsible for:**

* following the policies and procedures of the service
* ensuring all equipment and materials used at the service meet relevant safety standards (refer to the *Service policies* section of this policy)
* maintaining learning environments that provide sufficient space, and include carefully chosen and well-maintained resources and equipment to ensure a safe environment
* actively supervising children at all times (refer to *Supervision of Children Policy* and *Interactions* *with Children Policy*)
* conducting risk/benefit assessments for specific risky play scenarios considering children’s safety (*see attachments)*
* utilising a ‘dynamic risk assessment flow chart’ for minute by minute assessment of risky play scenarios (*see attachment 1*)
* implementing and practising emergency and evacuation procedures (refer to *Emergency and* *Evacuation Policy*)
* identifying and providing appropriate resources and training to assist educators, staff, visitors, volunteers and students to implement this policy (refer to *Sources*)
* protecting the rights of children and families, and encouraging their participation in decision-making
* keeping up to date and complying with any changes in legislation and practices in relation to this policy.

 **Parents and Guardians are responsible for:**

* reading and complying with the policies and procedures of the service
* abiding by the service’s *Code of Conduct*

**EVALUATION:**

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

* regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
* monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
* keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
* revise the policy and procedures as part of the service’s policy review cycle, or as required
* notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

**ATTACHEMENTS:**

ATTACHEMENT 1: Dynamic Risk Assessment Flow Chart

ATTACHEMENT 2: Manchester Preschool Risk Benefit Assessment for Fire-Pit Use

**AUTHORIZATION:**

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of on

**REVIEW DATE:**