



Weetangera School – Preschool Unit

Education risk benefit assessment: Tree Climbing

Date of Assessment: 02/02/19

Benefit Assessment:
Description of the experience/environment where risk has been identified:
– Climbing trees in the outdoor learning environment – potential falls
Benefits of activity for learning outcomes of children:
– Confidence through challenge
– Coordination and strength
– Problem solving – getting up and down
– Social interaction – helping peers
– Connection with nature
– Creative and imaginative play
Non-negotiable elements of this activity:
– A maximum height of climbing as determined by supervising educator
– Trees suitable for climbing to be identified by a green ribbon around the trunk
– Climbing rules are to be developed with children and on display
– When third party instruments (ropes, ladders, chairs, fabric) are used around the tree an educator must be directly supervising play
– Children must be in eye sight when climbing at low heights within the tree

Hazard identified	Preliminary risk for assessment (no measures in place)	Reduction/control measures	Who	When	Level of Risk (control measures in place)
Fall from tree	Moderate	*No pointy/sharp objects underneath tree *Tree climbed at an acceptable level	Staff	Daily	Low
Some branches becoming less stable	Moderate	*Lower limbs are removed to disable accessibility *Trees appropriate for climbing are labelled with a green ribbon	BSO Arborist	ASAP	Low
Child climbs too high in the tree and is unable to get down	Low	*Allow children to self-assess height with no peer pressure *Assess what are children's safe climbing practices *Have an extendable ladder accessible if required *Ensure children are always in eye sight	Staff & Children	Review tree rules once per year	Low
Tree branch breaks while child is climbing	Moderate	*Arborist assessment to assess health and viability of climbing tree	Arborist	Yearly or as advised by arborist	Low

Choking/hanging hazard when using ropes in tree	High	*Educators must guide children when using ropes in the outdoor environment *Children are explicitly taught how to use ropes appropriately and safely *Ropes will not be used unless an educator is directly supervising children	Staff and children	Daily/when ropes are used outdoors	Moderate
	Overall Preliminary Risk Assessment High				Overall Preliminary Risk Assessment Moderate

Education Risk Benefit Assessment - Outcome
BENEFIT outweighs RISK

Plan Prepared by	Virginia Hambly, Lauren Hall, Katrina Van Der Sterren, Sally Allan
Prepared in consultation with	All Staff
Communicated to:	Weetangera School Staff
Review Plan	Beginning of each year with new cohort of children OR when risks and benefits change OR when an incident occurs.

RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX		Consequence				
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Likelihood		1	2	3	4	5
Almost certain	5	Medium	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	4	Medium	Medium	High	High	Extreme
Possible	3	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme

