

Risk Benefit Assessment for Gardening

Benefit of Experience:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharing skills with children and young people regarding growing things 2. Learning to use tools safely 3. Learning about healthy eating & encouraging healthy eating practices. 4. Gardening requires good communication skills, negotiation skills and teamwork. 5. Children learn the risks associated with gardening and how to mitigate against these risks. 6. For many children Gardening will be a new, exciting and rewarding experience. 7. Gardening will encourage specific play types, (EG locomotive, dramatic play). 8. Each child can have a role in the gardening, ensuring that all are able to make a positive contribution. 9. Gardening is part of everybody’s history and culture and by providing this experience, we are continuing tradition. 10. This experience will help to build self belief, sense of achievement and confidence.

Steps	Hazard / Risk	Risk Rating (Likely hood x Severity)	Action to Control Risk	Revised Risk Rating	Responsible person
Select appropriate area to hold gardening session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trip hazards enabling child to fall. 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the area selected is free of trip hazards and has been ground checked prior to commencing. • Ensure that a first aid kit is present 	Low	Play Worker
Ensure children are aware of activity at hand, potential risks and hazards. Conduct safety talk covering risks highlighted in Risk Benefit Assessment.	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong staff ratio required for gardening to ensure appropriate supervision is in place 	-	-
Collect tools required for gardening from the green lock up. Take them to the area where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children carrying items inappropriately and 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover this in safety talk; Discuss appropriate method for carrying tools and being aware of others around them. 	Low	Play Worker and children responsible for safety.

gardening will take place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> falling onto tools. Children hurting other children through inappropriate carrying of tools. Sharp items kept in lock up. Children stepping on tools in gardening area. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision required for selecting and carrying tools. All tools to be counted out to ensure staff are aware of what needs returning afterwards. Green lock up only to be opened to get tools. As soon as this is done, the unit needs to be securely locked. Find appropriate safe area to store tools at designated gardening area. Appropriate supervision levels to be in place. First aid kit in place. 		
Participate in gardening with children. This could include watering, planting, turning soil over, composting, cutting grass, weeding, picking fruit or vegetables, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children injuring themselves on tools. Children injuring other children with tools. Overheating / sun burn. Exhaustion 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unused tools to be kept in the designated safety area. Staff show children how to use any tool introduced and ensure they are aware of safety requirements. Protective clothing to be provided if necessary (eg gloves, goggles). Small groups to ensure appropriate supervision. First aid kit present. Provide children with regular breaks and shelter in hot weather. Staff to keep an eye out for children getting exhausted. 	Low	Playworker
Conclude activity. Return tools used during gardening to the green lock up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same risks as highlighted in collecting tools. 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same mitigation as in collecting tools. Tools to be counted back in at the lock up. Gardening area to be checked to ensure it is left safe and clear. 	Low	Play Worker and children responsible for safety.