

**Early Years Foundation Stage**  
**Outdoor Risk Assessment 2011.**  
**Helmdon Acorns Pre-school EY420501**

Nominated person Rachel Wheeler

**General Risk Analysis**

**Outdoor Environment Checklist**

Is the outdoor environment safe and secure?	✓
Is the learning environment an emotionally safe place for children to be?	✓
Is the outdoor environment accessed in all weathers?	✓
Does the learning environment enable children to continue to develop as independent learners?	✓
Are learning opportunities maximised by using the space and time available to you creatively?	✓
Can the children use the outdoor environment for all aspects of their learning?	✓
Is the outdoor environment easily accessible to the children?	✓
Is the outdoor environment always supervised?	✓
Is the learning environment too hot/ too cold/ too stuffy/ too dark?	X
Do children have easy access to drinks of water?	✓
Do children have access to healthy snacks outdoors as well as indoors?	✓
Is there adequate space for the children to learn and play?	✓
Do you offer a range of outdoor activities for each of the six areas of learning?	✓

*(Questions taken from Simon Camby's 'Leading and Managing the Foundation Stage')*

**Points to consider**

<b>Visibility-</b>	
How much of the outside area can be seen?	Nearly all parts can be seen. Most can be seen from inside the building. The adult(s) outside make sure that the children are always in sight.
Are there any blind spots?	No blind spots.
Is condensation an issue?	No
<b>Access Points/security</b>	
How do the children access the outside environment?	The children have free flow access to the outside area through large double doors in

	classroom leading to canopy. Under no circumstances do foundation stage children go outdoors unattended.
How are the access points made secure?	Each exterior gate has child safety locks, which are only ever opened by an adult. The locks are too high for foundation children to reach. An adult opens the double doors from the play room when it is time to go outdoors.
How often are fencing/gates checked by staff?	At the beginning of each session by foundation stage staff and regular daily safety checks by the supervisor.
Are the access points used by staff, children, parents or visitors to access other areas of the site?	Yes. Gate 1 leads from the vegetable area and play area to the car park, this gate is not used during session times and remains locked it is only ever used for maintenance of the outdoor area. Gate 2 connects the play area to the nature area; children will have supervised access to this area. This gate is kept locked unless access to the nature area is needed. Gate 3 leads from the nature area to the path. This is for quick and safe exit from the pre-school in case of a fire, the children would exit the building through the fire door into the nature area and through gate 3 to the assembly area on the adjoining school field.
<b>Equipment</b>	
Which equipment/resources will always require adult supervision?	All outdoor activities have general adult supervision to ensure that everyone is safe & that children are playing/working appropriately. The tree house also needs supervision.
Which equipment/resources will require regular safety checks?	All items are checked daily but the vehicles, the climbing frame/tree house, and the sand & water trays before each session.
How often and by whom will these checks be made?	Before each session by staff. These will be marked down and ticked off on a separate

	risk assessment sheet each session.
<b>Pupils</b>	
Are there any children who will need particular support & supervision in the outside environment?	No. Not at present.
How many children can have access to the environment?	All children have access, but no more than ratios allow with 1 adult at any one time. The staff go where children go to support & keep up ratio.
How will this be controlled, so you know who is outside at any given time?	It is treated as an 'area' of continuous provision. We may use a band system to show who and how many are outside at one time. (On advise from Helmdon Primary school.) We are also seeking advise from other settings already operating free flow play.
<b>Other</b>	
How will weather conditions affect surfaces, equipment, activities and access? Climbing activity frame and tunnel .	The climbing frame/tree house and the tunnel are the only items that stays out permanently; all other items are stored in the building storage room, in outdoor storage unit or under the canopy shelter. Surfaces are affected but access is only allowed if the surfaces are safe. The staff clears any potential hazards such as wet leaves, ice etc
First aid - are adults working in early years aware of the designated first aider in school?	All teachers have a current first aid certificate, which are displayed in the setting.
Is the environment close to public access points or public footpaths?	Yes – a cul de sac road & a gravel path leading to the primary school. All gates will be closed and locked and new fences provide a safe enclosure preventing access to the school playground.

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### General Outdoor Area Risk Assessment

<b>Who could be harmed</b>	Children
<b>Existing controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outdoor equipment is checked/risk assessed daily to ensure everything is safe and in working order</li> <li>▪ Staff made aware of any common possible hazards by supervisor or deputy.</li> <li>▪ All 3 gates to be closed at all times; only adults can open the gates.</li> </ul>
<b>How serious is the risk of injury?</b>	Low
<b>What further action is needed to control the risk?</b>	Continual vigilance by all staff
<b>Who will be responsible for what action and when/how often will it be taken?</b>	All staff – on going
<b>How checked and by whom?</b>	All staff, at the beginning and end of of each session

### Individual activity risk assessments

SEVERITY		LIKELIHOOD	
Rating		Rating	
5	Death/ Permanent disability	5	Will almost certainly happen.
4	Serious injury/ long term sickness	4	Highly likely to happen.
3	Temporary disability 3-day Absence	3	Possible.
2	Required medical attention.	2	Might/less likely.
1	Minor injury e.g. bruise, graze	1	Remote possibility

Severity x Likelihood = Risk Factor	
Factor	Risk Assessment
16-25	Unacceptable! Requires immediate attention.
10-15	A high priority for action.
6-9	Medium risk – do something as soon as possible.
3-5	Low priority - examine practicality of change.
1-2	Low risk – no further action required.

### Vehicles area (tricycles, scooters etc)

Possible risks	Existing Controls	Severity	likelihood	Severity x likelihood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Broken parts</li> <li>▪ Flat tyres</li> <li>▪ Rusting or flaking metal</li> <li>▪ Children falling off a vehicle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vehicles to be checked daily to ensure they are in working order; no broken parts, good condition etc – staff to give them a ‘test drive’ before each session</li> <li>Adult supervision</li> </ul>	1	3	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure the children are clear about the expectations and routines for using the wheeled toys before the children can access them independently.</li> <li>▪ Four wheeled toys to be used in the clearly marked area.</li> </ul>	2	2	4

### Sand tray

Possible risks	Existing Controls	Severity	likelihood	Severity x likelihood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children getting sand flicked in their eyes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Model good playing – adult to keep a close eye on this area to ensure children are playing appropriately</li> </ul>	2	2	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any litter/insects etc getting into the sand and going unnoticed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Make sure that the sand tray lid is put on at the end of the day to avoid anything getting in the sand and checked every session.</li> </ul>	1	1	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Covering the sand tray</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff to work together when lifting the lid on/off and when moving the tray to prevent staff injury</li> </ul>	1	1	1

**Water tray**

Possible risks	Existing Controls	Severity	likelihood	Severity x likelihood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children getting water in their eyes</li> <li>▪ Any litter/insects etc getting into the water and going unnoticed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Model good playing – adult to keep a close eye on this area to ensure children are playing appropriately</li> </ul>	2	2	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Make sure that the water is changed at the beginning of each session. Empty the tray at the end of the day and store in the school storage area.</li> </ul>	1	1	1

**Climbing frame/tree house/tunnel**

Possible risks	Existing Controls	Severity	likelihood	Severity x likelihood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children falling from the climbing frame</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure children are clear about the expectations and routines for using the frame. This to be the focus of an adult led activity before the children can access it independently.</li> </ul>	2	2	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Loose fixings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To check the slide fixings regularly before use</li> </ul>	2	2	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children falling onto a hard surface</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The climbing frame has safety matting surrounding it.</li> </ul>	1	1	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The climbing frame being effected by the weather</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure the climbing frame has not been affected by the weather – check daily</li> </ul>	2	2	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children fall from top of tunnel mound</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slopes of mound are gentle and safety matting installed at each end of tunnel</li> </ul>	2	2	4

## Hazardous plants

Possible risks	Existing Controls	Severity	likelihood	Severity x likelihood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children hurt themselves on fallen branches from the trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Part of daily check list for staff to check the free flow area and remove to the nature area</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	2	1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stinging nettles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Netles sprayed in nature area with safe weed killer.</li> </ul>	1	3	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sharp thorny plants scratch the children</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most plants in hedges and flower beds are thornless. The children are taught to be careful of the raspberry bushes in the allotment area these are planted up against a fence where it is not easy for the children to accidentally knock against them. The allotments will be carefully maintained</li> </ul>	1	2	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poisonous plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no poisonous plants in the pre-school area.</li> </ul>	2	1	2

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## Boundaries and gates

Possible risks	Existing Controls	Severity	likelihood	Severity x likelihood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children leave the safe area</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Unknown adults access the play area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All gates are secure with locks above the children's reach</li> <li>▪ The play area is secured with a 5 foot post and rail fence with chicken wire</li> <li>▪ Staff check the condition of the fence daily to ensure that there are no holes in the wire</li> <li>▪ Play area is situated away from public footpaths</li> <li>▪ All gates are secured with locks</li> <li>▪ Area is always supervised</li> </ul>	?		

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**Animals – at the moment Acorns does not keep any pets**

Possible risks	Existing Controls	Severity	likelihood	Severity x likelihood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toxocariasis from contact with dog/fox mess</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff check that the site is firmly closed before leaving</li> <li>Staff check that no animals have accessed the site overnight</li> </ul>	2	1	2

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**Allotment/raised beds/shed**

Possible risks	Existing Controls	Severity	likelihood	Severity x likelihood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children access petrol for lawn mower</li> <li>Children hurt themselves with garden equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lawn mower and petrol are kept in shed which is locked with a padlock.</li> </ul>	2	1	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment from shed is laid out before the session start. If additional equipment is needed during session times a member of staff oversees the opening of the shed to access it the shed is then re-locked.</li> </ul>	1	2	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All gardening equipment is child appropriate and checked for any wear and tear along with all other equipment.</li> </ul>			