



Risk Management (OHS) Policy

1. Mission Statement

Building resilience through connection by creating opportunities for children, families and teachers to learn within nature.

2. Vision

Through our programs, **Educated by Nature** (the Company) aims to increase the mental, emotional and physical health of children and in doing so, foster stewardship and a deep love for the natural environment.

- Building the personal resilience of children, families and teachers through interaction within nature and community.
- Safeguarding the health of our natural world, forming strong relationships through natural learning.
- Revitalising community through childhood play, meeting instinctive needs for connection and childhood freedom.

3. Policy Scope

This policy applies to:

- Staff (directors, permanent, temporary or casual employees)
- Volunteers;
- Organisations/individuals who are contracted to facilitate, lead or assist with a program;
- Organisations/individuals who are contracted to produce images and other communications or marketing material for our programs;
- Program participants, including parents and guardians of minors.

4. Policy Statement

Educated by Nature is a social enterprise with a mission to connect families and schools with nature in order to build individual, community and environmental resilience.

Educated by Nature believes that allowing children to face risk and challenge increases their ability to push themselves to their limits, to find those limits and then develop ways to expand them. Children need risk in their lives to allow opportunities for learning, self-development, resiliency building and excitement. Nature provides opportunities for children to experience risk and manage themselves in risky situations.

“Children need and choose exciting places to play, which inevitably means managing situations that are inherently risky. Play – and particularly play outdoors – teaches young people to deal with risk. Without this awareness and learning they are ill equipped to deal with adult life. Outdoor play and learning is an important part of our children’s education” Robin Sutcliffe, Chair of the Play Safety Forum.



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Educated by Nature's programs will operate in most weather (including hot and wet weather). We believe this builds a child's connection to climate and builds resiliency and knowledge of weather. However, where weather conditions become extreme, Educated by Nature will make program changes or cancelations to ensure children and families are not placed in situations which are unnecessarily and knowingly hazardous.

Educated by Nature is committed to managing situations and environments so as to not cause foreseeable undue harm or injury to a child.

Safety is the responsibility of all staff, parents/guardians and children.
Safety awareness and education is the responsibility **Educated by Nature** Staff.

5. Version Control

Version Number	Approval Date	Approved by	Amendment Details
1.0	April 2016	Directors	Created
1.1	November 2017	Directors	Updated
1.2	January 2018	Directors	Updated

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6. Convention: Risk Assessment & Analysis

6.1. Benefit Risk Assessment

6.1.1. Benefit Risk Assessment - Site

Educated by Nature Directors will conduct a site inspection prior to the commencement of each program series and identify potential risks. A site will be deemed appropriate if the benefits of the space exceed the risks and if control measures are able to be applied. Facilitators are required to familiarise themselves with the benefit-risk assessments and control measures.

6.1.2. Benefit Risk Assessment - Program

Educated by Nature Directors will conduct a program analysis prior to the delivery of each program series and identify potential risks. A program will be deemed appropriate if the benefits of the activities included in the program exceed the risks and if control measures are able to be applied. Facilitators are required to familiarise themselves with the benefit-risk assessments and control measures.

6.1.3. Benefit Risk Assessment - Activity

Educated by Nature Directors will conduct activity specific analysis prior to the delivery of a program or series of programs and identify potential risks. An activity will be deemed appropriate if the benefits of the activities included in the activity exceed the risks and if control measures are able to be applied. Facilitators are required to familiarise themselves with the benefit-risk assessments and control measures.

6.1.4. High Risk Activities

Educated by Nature will conduct specific activity benefit-risk assessment and hazard assessment for those activities deemed as high risk and will provide staff with additional training to supervise and facilitate these activities. Programs that involve water based activities that are considered high risk will include staff who have relevant water safety training such as Bronze Medallion.

6.2. Hazard Assessment

Educated by Nature facilitators will conduct a site inspection prior to the commencement of each program and remove hazards. A hazard is deemed as something that could cause harm that a child would not see, such as broken glass or unseen sticks in high-foot traffic area.

Where the hazard cannot be removed, such as an unclean waterway, staff will acknowledge the hazard and then discuss and educate participants of how the situation will be managed.



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6.3. Self- Risk Assessment

Nature provides experiences of risk and management of risky situations. At **Educated by Nature** we believe risk encourages learning, self-development, resiliency building and excitement.

Each child is unique and will encounter experiences and opportunities within our programs differently. As such, we encourage and educate children (and their parents/guardians) to use the fear in risk taking to self-assess danger.

Facilitators will discuss situations, interact with and guide participants in the self-assessment process. We know that children are capable learners and that when children are independently successful, it contributes to building a strong self-identity.

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7. Convention: Incidents

7.1. Injuries

Educated by Nature acknowledges that in encouraging children to experiment, explore and expand their abilities, there may be occasions where an incident or injury will occur.

7.2. Participation Agreements

All **Educated by Nature's** drop and leave programs require parents/guardians to acknowledge the inherent risks involved with participation in particular programs. Acknowledgement and consent is given by parents or legal guardians either at the time of child drop off prior to a program or within the booking process.

7.3. First Aid

All **Educated by Nature** adult facilitators hold current First Aid Certificates and a wilderness first aid kit is always present on location at Educated by Nature programs.

In the event of an incident or injury, staff will administer first aid as required.

7.4. Incident Reporting

Staff record details of major incidents or incidents requiring communication to parents on Incident Report forms. These forms are presented to parents or guardians when a child is collected from a program or may be emailed within 24 hours of the incident. Educated by Nature requires a parent or guardian to sign the Incident Report to signify that the information of the incident has been communicated to them. The *Incident and Injuries Procedure* and/or *Filling out Incident Reports staff resource document* provides detailed information regarding specific processes.

7.5. Insurance

Educated by Nature maintains Public Liability, Professional Indemnity, and Worker's Compensation insurance.

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1. Related

8.1 Related Documents

- People Policy
- Incidents and Injuries Procedure (future)
- Children Well-being and Protection Policy
- Benefit Risk Assessments
- Participation Agreement Forms
- Incident Report Forms
- Filling Out Incident Reports Tips and Tricks (staff document)

8.2. Authority

- *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*
<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/occupational-safety-and-health-act-1984>

8.3. Resources

- *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996*
- *Occupational Safety and Health Codes of practice and guidance notes*
<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/occupational-safety-and-health-act-1984>
- *Benefit Risk Assessment Toolkit* <https://inspiredec.com.au/product/benefit-risk-assessment-toolkit-digital-download/>