

Appendix B

Risk Assessment Tops Day Nurseries

Sheet No	Date of assessment	Activity/Process			Location			Assessed by	Review Date
	26/5/21	Caring for stick insects			Tops Day Nurseries			J Penn B Chaitoff	5/22
No: SS001	Activity/Process	Hazard	Persons in Danger	Severity L to H	Likelihood L to H	Result L to H	Controls and Comments		Result

Risk Benefit: **The five freedoms that apply to any living creature in our care.**

1: *Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition*: give ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

2: *Freedom from discomfort*: provide a suitable environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

3: *Freedom from pain, injury and disease*: ensure prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

4: *Freedom to express normal behaviour*: provide sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

5: *Freedom from fear and distress*: ensure conditions avoid mental suffering.

Having pets encourages children to have shared ownership over the care and attention given to another living creature, which teaches them how to respect and treat animals and in turn this passes over to interactions with humans. It engages them to respond to something other than their own their needs as the creature is dependent upon them for food, warmth, exercise, safety etc. This is often something the children may have not been exposed to thinking about before.

Children often talk, with pets, or about the pets promoting communication and language skills, children will also often draw pictures, paintings of the pets in the setting. Children sometime use pets as alter egos who they can play and talk with using their imaginative skills, which can solve problems or issues they may be experiencing.

The nursery will often take the children to the pet shop to purchase supplies for the animals further enhancing their children's real life experiences and adding to the ownership and responsibility of looking after the animal. Stroking pets helps to release positive chemicals in the brain which in turn makes the child feel relaxed and happy. However some children are fearful of pets as they might be worried about them biting, scratching or other unpredictable behaviours, observing their peers interacting with pets can help children overcome their anxieties and find strategies to cope with situations they feel less confident about.

Read Stick insects in the nursery [here](#).

<https://www.keepinginsects.com/stick-insect/care/>

1	Terrarium	Inadequate housing	Stick insect	M	L	L	Terrarium to be 3 times the length of the stick insects body for height and 2 times the body for length and width. Additional stick insects you will need a longer terrarium.	A
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2	Moulting	Insufficient space Deformities, suffering and death	Stick insect	M	L	L	Additional height (see above) in the terrarium is needed for moulting, when they shed their skin they hang upside-down on their old skin to prevent death or deformities. Occasionally stick insects can develop deformities during shedding, legs may be bent at an odd angle. This does not affect the health of the stick insect.	A
3	Habitat inside terrarium	Inadequate housing	Stick insect	L	L	L	Floor of the terrarium – potting earth, small pebbles or tissue paper Roof – netting or mesh so the stick insect can hang from the roof when moulting.	A
4	Temperature and humidity	Inadequate housing	Stick insect	M	L	L	This will depend on the type of stick insect you have and how often it will need to be sprayed with water to keep humidity. Refer to website above. A hydrometer will need to be purchased to measure humidity and thermometer for the temperature of the terrarium. You may need to purchase a heat mat to help maintain the temperature.	A
5	Food	Malnutrition	Stick insect	L	L	L	Leaves need to be fresh, keep them on the branch within a vase of water, ensuring it will not fall over and cover the top to prevent them falling into the vase. When leaves dry out, replace. Refer to website above as it is dependent on the type of stick insect you have. Spraying water within the terrarium will give them the water they need for drinking. Avoid any leaves that have been sprayed with pesticides.	A

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6	Terrarium cleaning	Preventing mould and fungi growing	Stick insect	L	L	L	Regular cleaning needed especially under high humidity. Weekly removal of droppings, cleaning of top layer of earth or cleaning of peddles. Water and leaves to be changed weekly.		A
7	Breeding and egg care	Preservation of life	Stick insect	L	L	L	Keep a little bit moist, allow to dry out before spraying with water again. Fi they stay wet for more than 5 days they are at risk of mould growing on the eggs, so adjust the ventilation. Temperature should be about 30°c. Keep in a box with ventilation either use potting soil or tissue paper to put in the bottom of the box. It can take between 2 and 14 months for eggs to hatch depending on species. Once hatched, transfer to terrarium with fresh leaves (these may need to tear the edges to help with them eating).		A
8	Handling	Injury	Stick insect	M	L	L	Stick insects are very delicate and the best way to pick them up is to grasp the body between your thumb and forefinger and place them on your palm. Wash your hands after holding.		A
9	Health	Fungus	Stick insect	M	L	L	Stick insects sometimes get fungus on their skin. Wash this away with a rag dabbed with water. Fungus can spread to the stick insects internal organs, causing death.		A
10	Holidays	Death	Stick insect	M	L	L	Some stick insects need their terrarium spraying with water on a daily basis and therefore will need to be taken home and cared for at weekends.		A

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Key for Risk Rating: Once the likelihood and severity have been determined, the risk can be calculated below (AXB)				Key to Result:	
	Likelihood (B)				
Severity (A)	L	M	H	T	Trivial risk
Low	Low	Low	Medium	A	Adequately controlled
Medium	Low	Medium	High	N	Not adequately controlled
High	Medium	High	High	U	Unable to decide, further information required