

5Appendix B

Risk Assessment for Tops Day Nurseries

Sheet No	Date of assessment 26/4/2020	Activity/Process Coldwater Fish			Location Tops Day Nurseries			Assessed by J Penn B Chaitoff	Review Date 5/22
SS004	Activity/Process	Hazard	Persons in Danger	Severity L,M,H	Likelihood L,M,H	Rate	Controls 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 welfare sheet [here](#).

1	Location of tank	Manual handling, fish trauma	Fish Staff Children Learners Visitors	H	M	M	See fish care sheet. It is recommended that a book is obtained about the type of fish to help understand the commitment, type of environment specific to the species and the appropriate tank size (e.g. 1-2 litres for every cm of fish). Decide on location of fish tank prior to filling with water and fish: Easily accessible (for maintenance), away from direct sunlight (to prevent algae formation) and	A
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							<p>heat/cold – radiators and doors, reasonably quiet area of low activity.</p> <p>Do not attempt to move fish tank filled with water and/or fish (a litre of water weighs 1kg in addition to the aquarium, gravel etc will add to total weight). Ensure that the fish tank is on a stable and level base that will not easily be knocked and that can support the weight of water.</p> <p>If the fish tank has a light then ensure that this is switched off so that the fish have appropriate levels of 'night' and 'day' time.</p> <p>Situate the tank near an electric supply to be able to plug in to avoid trailing cables but far enough away to prevent danger of splashing.</p> <p>If painting a room ensure that the tank is removed from the room. Aerosols should also not be used near your fish so ensure appropriately covered.</p>		
2	Cleaning/re-filling goldfish tank/bowl, leaks	Spillages	Fish	M	L	L	<p>See fish care sheet. Partial water change of 20-30% on a weekly basis unless using specialist conditioner and clean gravel etc also (following expert recommended procedure). Replace water removed with fresh dechlorinated water (not tap water unless using conditioner). Do not 'top up' water that has been lost in evaporation.</p> <p>Erect wet floor sign in case of spillages and leaks. Replace tank/bowl as soon as leak becomes evident following expert guidance on transferral of fish. Always disconnect the power when servicing a tank. Clean and maintain filtration equipment as per manufacturer's instructions (if applicable).</p>	A	

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							Ensure that the room checks have a box in order that the cleaning of the fish can be recorded on a weekly basis.		
3	Cleaning/feeding the fish	Zoonoses – mycobacteriosis or 'aquarium finger', shigellosis	Fish handlers	L	L	L	See fish care sheet. Always wash your hands well after touching fish or aquarium water. Wear latex gloves (or non-latex gloves if allergic to latex) when handling fish. Don't handle fish or aquarium water if you have an open cut or sore or a lowered immune system. Do not overfeed the fish as this will pollute the water. Ammonia build up in the tank will quickly kill the fish. Only feed (good quality fish food) what can be eaten within a few minutes. When fish are left over the weekend, ensure you have slow releasing food available.	A	
4	Disposing of dead fish in a respectful way	Non-flushing of fish, disturbing when buried, psychological trauma	Staff Visitors Children	M	L	L	Disposal of fish down toilet – ensure fish is dead first. Scoop fish out of tank with net (or equivalent) and place on saucer (or similar). Clean net/saucer afterwards in case of infection of disease. Ensure that the goldfish is disposed of down the staff toilet and not the children's toilet. If burying in a box ensure that it is de-compostable. Hole must be at least six inches deep to avoid neighbouring cats/dogs digging it up causing further distress. Involve children in discussion of death and with burial. Be prepared to comfort distressed children.	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