

Appendix B

Risk Assessment for Tops Day Nurseries

Sheet No	Date of assessment 26/5/21	Activity/Process Chickens			Location Tops Day Nursery			Assessed by J Penn B Chaitoff	Review Date 5/22
No:	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 Chickens in nursery care sheet [here](#)

1	Keeping chickens	Zoonoses, welfare and H&S aspects of chicken keeping	Children, Staff, Learners, Visitors	H	L	M	Staff aware of the welfare and H&S requirements of keeping chickens (handout from supplier). Notice in place to advise and remind staff/children to wash their hands before and after chicken handling. Staff ensure that children do not put their hands to their mouth/eyes after touching chicken/ their poo. Vet details are in place once purchased.	A
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2	Keeping chickens	Hygiene, rats	Children, Staff, Learners, Visitors	M	L	L	Notices in place to remind staff/children to wash their hands before and after chicken handling. Training for staff on how to clean. Appropriate disinfectants are supplied to clean the run and relevant PPE is issued to staff/children. COSHH sheets are in place. Children are adequately supervised by a qualified and competent staff member. Cleaning is recorded on the am/pm checks as necessary. Chickens are not overfed. Leftover food is removed so rats are not encouraged. Pest control contract in place.	A	
3	Keeping chickens	Cleaning and damage to housing	Children, Staff, Learners, Visitors				Routine inspection of the housing is carried out on feeding daily and thoroughly whilst cleaning. Any repairs are effected immediately where possible.	A	
4	Handling chickens	Allergies	Children, Staff, Learners, Visitors	H	L	M	All allergies are recorded on site for staff and children detailing treatment or response. Those who may be susceptible should refrain from contact with the animals and known reactions monitored in order that effective measures can be implemented to counteract.	A	
5	Keeping chickens	Bites and scratches	Children, Staff, Learners, Visitors	M	L	L	There is no risk of injury from chicks. Chickens may peck. Arrangements in place for first aid. Children supervised at all times by qualified and competent persons.	A	

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							All pecks/scratches should be washed immediately. Medical advice should be sought if in doubt about risk or infection.	
6	Hatching chicks/keeping chickens	Weekend care	Chicks/chickens	M	L	L	Arrangements will be made for feeding the chickens over weekends.	A
7	keeping chickens	Death of chicks	Children, Staff, Learners, Visitors	M	M	M	Disposal of dead chickens is in a respectful manner. It is understandable that an attachment will form between chicks and children/staff. Death is to be discussed and explained within the nursery.	A
8	Collection and using chicken eggs for cooking on site	Illness, allergies	Children, Staff, Learners, Visitors	M	M	M	Eggs not to be given to the children due to that they are unsure if they have had their jabs, but staff can take them home. Eggs collected daily, dated on collection and used within 5 days of collection. Hands washed after collection. Eggs washed before use.	A
9	Cleaning of chickens	Unhygienic conditions	Chick	M	M	M	Clean water and food dishes daily. On a weekly basis dust free saw dust to be changed and food and water bowl to be washed out.	A
10	Feeding	Ill health	Chick	L	L	L	Check food dish regularly, only giving them chick feed, whilst being careful not to over feed. Change water bowl regularly to prevent bacterial growth. Remove mouldy or contaminated food. Store food in a sealed container to discourage vermin.	A
11	Feeding	Ill health	Chicken	L	L	L	Chickens are not overfed. Leftover food is removed so pests are not encouraged. Kitchen scraps are	

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							not to be fed to the chickens – it is illegal . Do not feed or let them have access to: lawn clippings, sprouted potatoes, plants poisonous to chickens, (laburnum, lily of the valley, yew), Cocoa, antifreeze, or let them have access to,		
12	Adequate exercise	Escaped, injured birds	Chick / Chickens	M	M	M	Chickens should be let out daily for exercise (in a safe enclosed environment).	A	
13	Avian Flu	Avian flu in wild birds in uk	Chickens	M	L	L	<p>All staff to be aware of Avian Influenza which is in both wild and captive birds in the UK - https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bird-flu/</p> <p>Registering the flock with DEFRA will allow an SMS message to be sent to owners if any restrictions are put in place or lifted. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-including-game-birds-registration-rules-and-forms</p> <p>If there is an outbreak, new housing measures will come into force, this means that it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers to keep their birds indoors and follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread of eradicate the disease. Risk to staff health from the virus is very low and does not affect the consumption of eggs.</p> <p>Staff to take extra precautions when cleaning and disinfecting equipment and clothing when entering the cage.</p> <p>Our Chickens are in a cage so this shouldn't affect them but staff must wash their hands every time</p>	A	

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							they enter the cage or touching anything within the chicken's area. Staff to clean their shoes before entering the building https://www.bhwt.org.uk/tag/defra/		

Key for Risk Rating: Once the likelihood and severity have been determined, the risk can be calculated below (AXB)				y 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