

Risk Benefit Assessment

Reception POND

BENEFITS

- Pleasure and fun
- Learning through direct experience: pond insects, amphibians, fish and fauna
- Engagement with natural environment and natural elements
- Potential incorporation of songs, e.g. Five Little Speckled Frogs, etc
- Potential incorporation of imaginary play, e.g. acting out The Frog Prince, etc
- Development of knowledge, self-confidence and well-being
- Appeals to children of different ages
- Fosters curiosity
- Fosters scientific exploration

RISKS AND RESPONSES TO THEM

CHILD FALLS IN POND

Possibility of a fall is minimal.

1. A visual boundary will be on one side of the pond (logs). Most of the pond perimeter will be blocked by planters, Thuja (evergreen shrub), a herb hill with lavender, and yellow and red bark dogwood bushes.
2. Children will be taught pond safety rules (not to cross the visual boundary unless invited by adult & always kneel in the respect position by the pond).

DROWNING

Possibility of drowning is minimal.

1. The pond will be shallow - thigh deep to a preschool child. If a child sits upright or stands up, their head will be above water.

CONTAMINATED WATER

Possibility of contaminated water is minimal.

1. Pond will be checked and maintained regularly. Drained and refilled with clean water if needed.

INGESTING POISONOUS POND PLANTS

Possibility of ingesting poisonous pond plants is minimal.

1. "On the traditional White Water Lily, the fresh leaves and blossoms can be eaten." Source: <http://practicalgardenplants.com/water-lily/>
2. Only non-poisonous pond plants will be used.
3. We will never eat the pond plants even if they have culinary uses.

DECISION

Having a pond offers an acceptable level of risk. Routine maintenance of pond will be performed. Only safe pond plants will be installed.