

# Deadly Descendants Child Safe Risk Management Plan for LEGO-Based Brick Clubs in Schools

**Nature of Services Provided:** LEGO-based therapeutic activities in high schools for students aged 12-17.

**Date Completed:** 28th March 2024

**Next Review Date:** 28th September 2024 - To be reviewed biannually or immediately after any critical incidents occur.

# Risk Management Framework

## Identify Settings Where Interactions Occur

- **Physical:** High school classrooms or designated spaces for Brick Club activities.
- **Online:** Any digital platforms used for organizing, displaying, or discussing club activities.

## Identify Risks in Interactions

**Unsupervised Access:** One staff member working without direct oversight can increase risks.

**Emotional and Psychological Safety:** Potential for emotional distress among participants.

**Special Educational Needs:** Needs of participants with varying abilities might not be fully met.

**Cybersecurity and Data Privacy:** Risks related to online activity and personal data handling.

**Physical Safety and Material Use:** Possible physical injuries from materials or environment.

**Inclusion and Accessibility:** Ensuring activities are accessible and inclusive for all participants.

**Therapeutic Boundaries:** Maintaining professional boundaries in a therapeutic setting.

## Assess Risk Likelihood and Consequence

- **Likelihood:** Varies from low to high depending on the risk.
- **Consequence:** Ranges from minor to severe, with a focus on emotional and physical well-being.

# Determine Risk Rating and Protective Strategies

## Unsupervised Access

- **Rating:** High
- **Strategy:** Rigorous staff selection and training, including child protection, emergency procedures, and conflict resolution. Establish a clear protocol for reporting concerns.

## Emotional and Psychological Safety

- **Rating:** Medium
- **Strategy:** Staff trained in emotional support and recognition of distress signals. Distress protocol available for staff which includes support mechanisms for students experiencing distress.

## Special Educational Needs

- **Rating:** Medium
- **Strategy:** Tailored activity adaptations and staff training in Brick-by Brick facilitation which encompasses special educational needs and inclusive practices.

## Cybersecurity and Data Privacy

- **Rating:** Medium
- **Strategy:** Secure, moderated digital platforms for any club-related online activities, with strict data handling protocols. All data will be securely stored with Bond University. All physical documents will be stored in a locked cabinet at Deadly Descendants.

## Physical Safety and Material Use

- **Rating:** Low
- **Strategy:** Regular safety checks, appropriate storage and handling of LEGO bricks, and immediate access to first aid. All staff will have first aid training and access to a first aid kit.

## Inclusion and Accessibility

- **Rating:** Medium
- **Strategy:** Activities designed to be inclusive and spaces made accessible to all participants. Staff trained in facilitation of Brick by Brick and provided with training on inclusivity.

## Therapeutic Boundaries

- **Rating:** Medium
- **Strategy:** Clear guidelines on staff-participant interactions, with training on maintaining therapeutic boundaries. Staff will be provided with Code of Conduct, Child Safe Policy, Charter of Commitment to Children and Young People, Child Safe Reporting Policy and Child Safe Complaints Handling Policy

## Confidentiality and Consent

- **Risk:** Ensuring the confidentiality of sensitive data and obtaining informed consent.
- **Rating:** High
- **Strategy:** Adhere to strict data protection protocols and ensure informed consent is fully understood and obtained from all participants and their guardians.

## Ethical Considerations

- **Risk:** Maintaining ethical standards, particularly regarding the participants' emotional and psychological well-being.
- **Rating:** High
- **Strategy:** Obtain approval from an ethics committee and conduct regular reviews to ensure alignment with ethical guidelines, prioritizing participants' well-being. We have obtained approval from the Bond University Ethics Committee and a SERAP (State Education Research Application Process) application has been submitted and is in the final stages. We will not commence any delivery of Brick Clubs in school until we have approval through SERAP.

## Misinterpretation of Research Goals

- **Risk:** Potential confusion or mistrust due to misinterpretation of the research objectives by participants or guardians.
- **Rating:** Medium
- **Strategy:** Offer transparent, clear communication about the research, its goals, and methods. Maintain open lines for questions and feedback. We have created

parent and child/young person information packs which clearly outline all information about the research and who to contact if they have any questions or concerns. There are also audio versions available for participants and guardians.

### Impact on Therapeutic Outcomes

- **Risk:** Research activities might affect the therapeutic environment or participants' engagement.
- **Rating:** Medium
- **Strategy:** Design and implement the research to minimize its impact on the therapy process, ensuring facilitators are adept at maintaining a natural therapeutic environment.

### Additional Regulatory and Reporting Requirements

- **Risk:** Compliance with research-specific regulations and reporting obligations.
- **Rating:** High
- **Strategy:** Keep informed of and comply with all relevant regulations and reporting requirements for conducting research with children. Regularly update oversight bodies on risk management practices and findings.

## Implementation and Monitoring

- **Training and Education:** Extend staff training to include research ethics, data protection, and informed consent processes.
- **Reporting Mechanisms:** Establish specific reporting procedures for ethical concerns or breaches of confidentiality.
- **Regular Audits and Reviews:** Include additional reviews focusing on research ethics, participant feedback regarding the research process, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

## Review and Continuous Improvement

Incorporate findings from regular audits, participant feedback, and ethical reviews to refine and update the risk management plan, ensuring it remains effective and aligned with both therapeutic and research integrity.

## **Regular Review**

To ensure the effectiveness of protective strategies, this plan will undergo regular reviews every six months with adjustments made based on feedback from participants, staff, and guardians, as well as observations from club sessions. This plan will be reviewed by Deadly Descendants Founding Director, Anastasia Elliott and Child Safeguarding Officer Tracee Wilcock on the 28th March 2024.