



## *Risk Assessment – Education Department*

Under current health and safety regulations an annual assessment must be made of all areas within the Garden to identify potential risks. Steps must then be taken to minimise or eliminate any risks identified. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is committed to providing a safe environment for all our staff and visitors.

### *Risks identified within the educational environment*

- Within the Garden there are several ponds and water features. Although the water within these features is relatively shallow, children taking part in educational activities are not permitted into these areas without adult supervision. As an additional precaution life-saving equipment is permanently located next to the large outdoor pond.
- Within the Garden grey squirrels are extremely common. Although these animals will often approach humans they are still wild animals and will scratch or bite if startled. During educational activities children are not permitted to feed the squirrels and are discouraged from attempting to attract them at any time.
- Within the tropical glasshouses the pathways are often wet and can become slippery under certain circumstances. All pathways have slightly roughened surfaces to prevent slipping and children taking part in educational activities are not permitted to run in these areas.
- Within the outdoor environment, paths and grassy areas can become slippery when wet. Children are warned to take care in these areas, and games which involve running around will be limited or take place in a less slippery location if this is likely to be a problem.
- During some educational activities children are given the opportunity to try different foods derived from plants. Wherever possible the food products used are organic and free of artificial additives. Care is taken by the education staff to identify children with food allergies who may be sensitive to the products used.