

# Enabling Risk Enabling Skills

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# OBJECTIVES

For the practitioner to:-

- Reflect
- Explore
- Challenge
- Manage risk appropriately and in line with each individual child's need.

# Video Clip

## Kids Gone Wild: Denmark's Forest Kindergartens

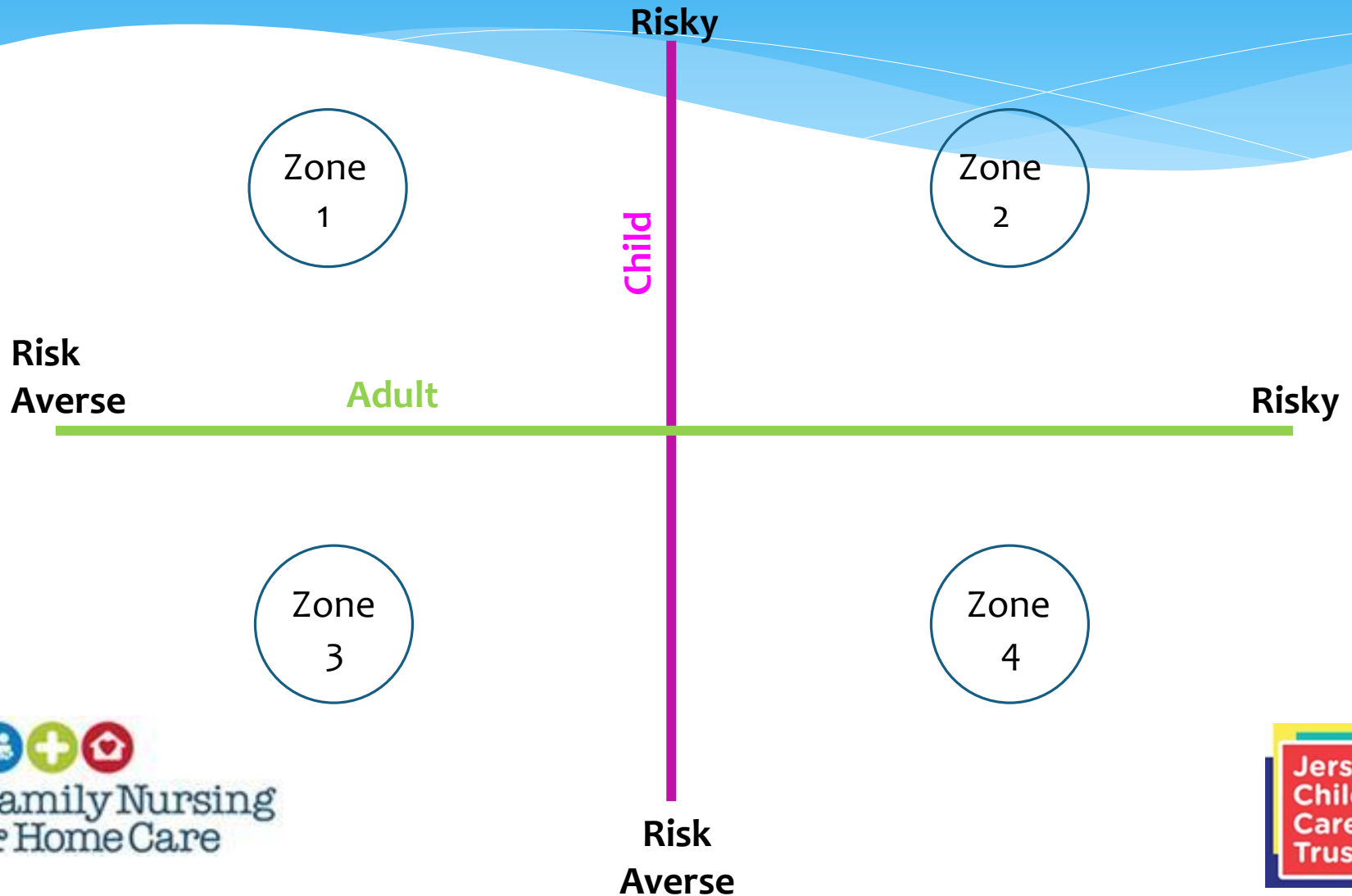
# Where do you stand?

How comfortable are you with this level of risk?

## The Human Likert Scale



# The Risk Matrix



# Zone 1

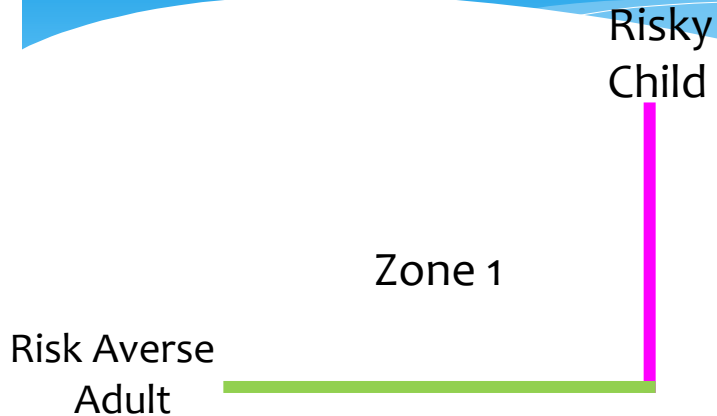
Risky Child

Think about the impact of this adult's assessment of situations on this child's health and development.

Risk  
Averse  
Adult



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- Think back to the video.

## CATASTROPHIC THINKING

1. What's the **worst** thing that can happen?
2. What's the **best** thing that can happen?
3. What's most likely to happen?









“Children don’t need risk, they need  
Challenge and excitement.”



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# Zone 2

Risky Child



The Bear Gryll's Effect

Risky Adult

Risky  
Child

## The Bear Gryll's Effect

Zone 2

Risky  
Adult



This **is** about:

Adult knowledge competency and skills

Adult assessment of situations

It is **not** about:

Taking unnecessary risks.

# Zone 3

Risk Averse  
Adult

## The Cotton Wool Effect



Risk Averse  
Child

# Zone 3

Risk Averse  
Child



Risk Averse  
Adult



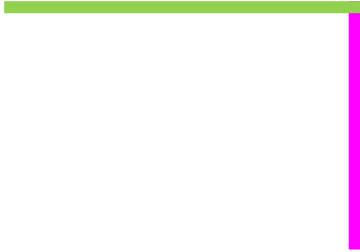
“Excessively risk-averse culture in schools is stifling children’s readiness for the real world.”

*Dame Judith Hackitt, HSE Chair*

“... being risk averse does not enable children to learn to handle risk and lead to them being poorly equipped to discern risk from trivia.”

“Children need those basic skills to exercise judgement and take responsibility for themselves.”

Risk Averse  
Adult



Risk Averse  
Child

## Zone 3



Also about Catastrophic thinking.

What's the worst that can happen?

What's the best that can happen?

What is the most likely to happen?

As a practitioner, in order to effect change, it is important to work closely with parents.

# Zone 3

## The Steps

Relationship building  
Exploration  
Understanding  
Goal Setting  
Implementing  
Review.

## Essential

Partnership Skills

## Personal Qualities and Interpersonal Skills

What skills do you need to do this?



# Zone 4

Risky Adult

Becoming Brave:  
Helping Children move past fear.

Risk Averse  
Child

Risky  
Adult

## Zone 4

Risk Averse  
Child

## Becoming Brave

- Acknowledge child's feelings
- Offer information
- Let the child borrow your confidence
- Take baby steps
- Tell stories of struggle then triumph
- Model bravery

# Group reflection and Human Likert scale once more



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Questions?

Comments?

**Thank you!**