

FOREST SCHOOL RISK ASSESSMENT

Activity	Assessment Undertaken	Assessment Review
Forest school site visit.	Name: Debbie Manns Date: June 2009 Signed:	Name: Debbie Manns Date: Sept 2009



Significant hazards	Groups at risk	Existing controls, and risks not controlled + action needed
Main rd adjacent to entrance	All	Mini bus and car transport to park inside gate way or pull up directly adjacent to gate. The bus or car makes a natural barrier between the woodland & the road.
Gate	Staff	Gate to be removed by 2 adults and rotated 90 degrees to provide clear access to woodland path & barrier to footpath along main rd below gate area. Gate to be replaced before children taken out of bus or car when parked within the
Nettles & Thistles	All	Pulled from path & base camp area regularly. long sleeved tops, long trousers, socks & shoes to be worn at all times.
Brambles	All	Cleared from access areas. Noted as land marks, children warned to avoid areas.
Leaving base camp area	Children	Double string surrounds base area with gate across single entry point. Clear rules forbidding the crossing of the string and dense nettle & bramble growth acts as further deterrent.
Poisonous plants	All	See handbook for list common poisonous plants & trees & symptoms. NO picking of anything growing policy enforced. Strict hand washing routine before eating & drinking and on return to playgroup. Some plants surrounded by high tree guards. (YEW)
Mushrooms & fungi	All	Look and call an adult to see. Do not touch any.
Dead branches. Stumps & roots.	All	Regularly inspected & felled where necessary. Dead wood on low bushes pruned. Old stumps & roots exposed and pointed out or removed.
Rabbit holes	All	Regular sweep of area to check for new holes
Bee/wasp stings	All	Regular sweep to check for nests. First aider always on site.
Snakes		Avoid contact. First aid & emergency procedure if Adder bite suspected.
Fire	All	Strictly enforced protocol for area in proximity to fire. See handbook.
Tools	All	Tools stored in secured shed or hung in tree out of reach when not in use. Correct use of tools taught when required. One to one supervision when using 'adult' tools.
String boundries	All	Outer boundry marked with white A4 signs to highlight string. Inner short term marked out with coloured tapes and children told areas out of bound and why. Ensure string is not at neck height or ankle height.
Ropes & swings	All	Check security of knots and stability of poles and ropes before each session. Adult to supervise.

Clothing / Safety / Emergency Equipment Requirements

- a) *Clothing and other equipment to be worn/carried by each participant :*
As per handbook. Spare clothes & Wellingtons in store shed.
- b) *Safety or other equipment to be carried by the group :*
Mobile Phone First Aid Kit Other: blanket, water, spare clothing, wet wipes, toilet tissue. See also kit list in handbook.

Safety Instructions

- a) *Safety instructions to be given to children in advance :*
Handbook - See daily routine
- b) *Safety instructions to be given to staff in advance :*
Handbook - See daily routine
- c) *Verbal safety instructions to be given to group before departure / commencement :*
Handbook - See daily routine, check main activity sheet

Emergency Arrangements

- a) *In case of incapacitating accident :*
Provide first aid , call ambulance & inform parents / next of kin. *All other children to be contained in shelter area (story & songs)*. Transport may be called for early return if adult needed to accompany child in ambulance. Or if it is an adult who is hurt and the ratio drops. Write up accident report form and assess risk assessment!
- b) *In case of less serious accident :*
Provide first aid , Inform parent and write up incident on accident report form.
- c) *In bad weather :*
Contain children in shelter area. Send for transport early. Inform parents who may be collecting from woodland.

Overall Hazard Rating:

Low

Comments:

See also health & safety policy document in hand book.