



FOREST SCHOOLS – MATLOCK BATH HOLY TRINITY CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTING NATURAL MATERIALS RISK ASSESSMENT

This activity risk assessment must be used in conjunction with Lifting and Site Safety procedures and risk assessments for:

- General Welfare and Weather
- Specific Site Woodland Assessment

ASSESSOR: Chris Layhe-Humphreys

DATE: 09/23

REVIEW DATE: 09/24

	HAZARD	HARM	PERSONS AT RISK	EXISTING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES	PROBABILITY (P) 1-5	SEVERITY (S) 1-5	RATING (P) X (S) 1-25	WHAT MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN	BY WHO
1	Weather	Hypothermia, sunburn	Group, helpers & leaders.	A general Welfare and Weather Risk Assessment completed and to be followed.	3	2	6	The group will be fully equipped to deal with issues arising from poor welfare and weather issues. Staff to check weather forecasts and check all safety equipment is to hand at all times.	CLH/VP
2	Woodland Site	Slips, trips, falls, scrapes, cuts & bangs	Group, helpers & leaders.	Woodland Site Risk Assessment Completed and to be followed.	3	2	6	The group, volunteers and leaders will be made aware of aspects highlighted in the Woodlands Risk Assessment and will sign a document to say they have read and understood potential issues. Staff to ensure it is used on site during sessions.	CLH/VP
3	Lifting Materials	Injuries to back, muscles	Group, helpers & leaders.	Lifting Procedures implemented.	1	4	4	The group and all leaders will read and practise lifting procedure modelling it to children and parents when the need arises. Staff to observe and monitor that the correct procedure are being used.	CLH/VP and Staff
4	Insects & Plants	Stings & bites – anaphylactic shock	Group, helpers & leaders.	Avoiding areas that contain stinging plants and insects. Staff to conduct a Site Safety Check before the start of each session. If necessary cordon off potentially unsafe areas using the hazard	2	2	4	Explain and show plants that may sting and avoid areas containing them. Discuss use of the hazard tape.	CLH/VP

“Let us run the race before us and never give up” Hebrews 12.1

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				tape. Discuss this with group in the 'Nurturing Nature' talk.				'Nurturing Nature' talk explained and reinforced in sessions.	
5	Litter & Debris	Cutting, scraping & infection	Group, helpers & leaders.	<p>The area has been risk assessed considering the occurrence of litter.</p> <p>Staff to discuss issues with litter to us and nature in assemblies.</p> <p>If litter becomes more problematic, Staff to organise some children to complete a safe litter pick (using tools provided).</p>	3	2	6	<p>Ensure children know to report litter to an adult and not to pick it up without the proper safe litter picking equipment.</p> <p>Investigate area to be used carefully during the pre-session check.</p>	CLH/VP and Staff
6	Uneven Ground	Trip, slip, falls	Group, helpers & leaders.	<p>Activity areas have their own risk assessment which considers slips and trip hazards.</p> <p>CLH/VP pre-session safety checks to spot any new hazards.</p>	3	3	9	<p>As part of the 'Nurturing Nature' talk, children are told to move around the site with care and respect for each other and nature.</p> <p>Children to watch out for potential hazards and report them to Staff immediately if they spot anything. Hazard tape to be used as a temporary measure to cordon off area.</p>	CLH/VP
7	Low Branches & Trees	Banging & poking eyes	Group, helpers & leaders.	<p>Areas will be chosen as much as possible to avoid eye height branches.</p> <p>Children will be educated through the 'Nurturing Nature' talk to keep in mind this potential hazard and to be more conscious of other around.</p> <p>Staff to model good techniques and behaviours when working on the site.</p>	3	3	9	<p>Ensure group are aware of any dangers these hazards may pose.</p> <p>Make sure the group move carefully around the wood, looking out for each other and without moving quickly or carelessly.</p>	CLH/VP
8	Dog & Cat Faeces	Infection and disease	Group, helpers & leaders.	CLH/VP to make this part of the pre-session check.	2	2	4	Ensure group are aware of this potential problem in the 'Nurturing Nature' talk.	CLH/VP and Staff

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				Unfortunately, cats and dogs do sometimes enter the school site. Group/leaders to report anything they find. Staff to carry poo bags to clean up the faeces.				Staff to carry anti-bacterial wipes in case of contact with animal faeces.	
9	Lifting & Swinging Sticks	Bangs, scrapes	Group, helpers & leaders.	Model how to lift and carry sticks carefully.	3	3	9	CLH/VP to step in and control a situation when procedures are not being followed. Leaders to observe and monitor as well as model good practice.	CLH/VP and Staff
10	Fungus	Poison	Group, helpers & leaders.	On site, we do not have many types of fungi, however areas with high number of fungi to be avoided. As part of 'Nurturing Nature' talk, group to be told never to touch fungi as they can be extremely hazardous.	2	2	4	When fungi is found, group to use the identification key (from Woodland Trust) to learn about its characteristics.	CLH/VP
11	Toxic Plants	Poison	Group, helpers & leaders.	Areas containing toxic plants to be restricted.	1	4	4	The group will be told not to eat anything that they find as part of the 'Nurturing Nature' talk. Group will wash their hands or clean them using the anti-bacterial wipes before eating any food.	CLH/VP

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