

Forest School Risk Assessment updated July 2022

ACTIVITY LOCATION OBJECT	How will children BENEFIT from this activity?	Possible hazards	Who is at risk?	PRECAUTIONS in place to reduce the risk of injury	Overall risk RATING: L/M/H
Decking area	Use as a flat outdoor workspace.	Slippery when wet.	Everyone	Stay off this area when it is or has been raining.	Low
Trees and branches	Use of sticks, fallen leaves, climbing, tying ropes to, as a habitat for wildlife.	Branches can potentially cause injury. Low possibility of falling trees.	Everyone	Trim back any branches at head height. Continue to regularly check health of trees.	Low
Bricks and log stumps	Something to sit on, build with.	Tripping over, dropping them.	Everyone	Maintain use of logs in circle, return them if used. Carry one brick at a time. Keep brick towers limited to less than 10 high.	Medium
Muddy and stagnant water.	Useful for play. Mud kitchen.	Ingestion leading to sickness.	Children	Remind children not to ingest dirty water. Bring water bottles into the Forest School area so children have drinking water available.	Low
Plants	Learning opportunities.	Ingestion leading to sickness Brambles and stinging nettles being an irritant.	Everyone	Continue to identify and remove toxic plants. Remind children about the presence of brambles and nettles and continue to trim these back if they grow onto the path.	Low
Animal faeces	Learning opportunities	Ingestion and eye contamination	Children	Continue with pre and post session checks. If there is any present, then remove it and/or discuss with children.	Low
Former pond area	Digging area, as a natural habitat, useful for clay, stones, bricks, etc. May be used in future as a mini wetland.	Falling over into the area, uneven surface. Old walkway unable to be used.	Everyone	Use cones to signpost and block off the walkway area. If wet, remind children to keep off the stone paving slabs.	Low

Ticks in long grass	Unique natural habitat. Learning opportunities.	Tick bites. Lyme's disease (though an extremely low chance of ticks being carriers of this), tripping on objects hidden in the long grass.	Everyone	Encourage parents to send children in with long sleeves and trousers for Forest School. Advise that they can apply bug repellent to their child prior to a session. Children, adults, parents continuously checking for ticks.	Medium
Litter and debris	Learning opportunities and cleaning up activity.	Shards of tiling and glass have been found during digging.	Everyone	Advise children to tell an adult if they find something like this. Dispose of this properly.	Medium
Rotting wood and fencing	Useful for play depending on quality.	Splinters and nails.	Everyone	Continue to dispose of any potentially harmful wood. Check fencing for loose nails.	Medium
Rope ladder	Promotes children's gross motor and hand eye co-ordination including cross body development-core stability.	Fall from height (2metres max)	Everyone	Tied to an established tree branch, check rungs for strength and surrounding ground for potential hazards. Supervised by an adult.	Medium
Push Mower	Life skill learning, promotes gross motor skills, can be used as a self-regulating/soothing activity for children with proprioceptive feedback needs.	Sharp blades, potential to catch fingers.	Everyone	Use under adult supervision. Establish boundaries for use (walking not running when using, keep fingers away from mechanisms) 7.7kg in weight so classed as 'lightweight' so shouldn't pose a risk to backs	Medium