

Risk Assessment - General

Hazard	Uncontrolled outcome	Preventative measures	Risk level – high, medium or low
Debris Trip hazards	Injury by falling over or into an object	Look after rules, high adult to child ratio	M
Holes and burrows	Trip, injury	Look after rules, tape off any areas with big trip hazards	L
Exposed roots and other hazards	Trip, slip	Look after rules, reminders when wet of danger of slipping	M
Poisonous or thorny plants, berries or fungi	Stings, rashes, sickness, infected wound, damage to clothing	Group leader to point out plants or areas to avoid. Group not to eat anything found unless instructed. Hands to be cleaned before eating or drinking.	L
Stinging and biting insects	Stings leading to allergies. Tick bites leading to Lyme disease	Outline possibility of stings and bits according to season . Check allergies. Make group aware that if any rash or flu symptoms occurs after a session, to go to the doctor	L
Low branches	Banging head Poking in eyes	Look after rules. High adult to child ratio	M
Dead branches falling	Impact Crush	Check site for hanging deadwood on arrival, cancel sessions in high winds	L
Members of the public	negative interaction Abduction Attack	High adult to child ratio, head counts, mobile phones carried by staff	L
Dogs causing worry upset or hurt	Children being afraid of dogs or hurt.	Group to be made aware of the public access to the park. High adult to child ratio. Mobile phones carried. Call for help if needed.	L

Animal faeces	infection	Leader to check site before use. Hand washing before any food or drink. Wipes and disposal bags available.	L
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Risk assessment – General Welfare group

Hazard	Uncontrolled outcome	Preventative measures	Risk level – high, medium or low
Inappropriate footwear and clothing	Injury due to inappropriate footwear. Discomfort due to temperature leading to hypothermia or heatstroke	Information for parents re footwear and clothing. Some activities not to be done by children if they are not safe due to footwear etc.	M
General health and welfare	Discomfort or illness	Look after rules, snacks and drinks available, water station set up in hotter weather, discussion between parents and leader re allergies	M
Poor hygiene	Stomach upsets or bugs	Observation of children and reminders particularly before eating Wipes provided and handwash to be used before eating, wash cooking equipment before use.	M
Challenging behaviour	Conflicts between children. Injury to children by another child. Injury to oneself.	Setting the scene before going into the woods, i.e direct to the fire circle, look after rules, ongoing discussions when conflicts arise, Group leader and parents to discuss behaviour and what approach to take	M

Risk Assessment – Weather

Hazard	Uncontrolled outcome	Preventative measures	Risk level – high, medium or low
High winds	Deadwood falling and injuring group.	Leader to check weather and if necessary, text the group to cancel session if thought unsafe. Also a session may have to be finished early if weather conditions prove hazardous.	M
Sun	Dehydration Sunburn/sunstroke	Parents to provide sun cream and sun hats. Discussion of sun and heat and need to rest in the shade and drink plenty of water	M
Low temperature	Discomfort, hypothermia	Children to wear layers, two pairs of socks or padded boots and waterproofs, gloves and hats if possible. Discussions around keeping moving on cold days. Having a warm drink and a fire also.	M

Risk Assessment - Fire

Hazard	Uncontrolled outcome	Preventative measures	Risk level – high, medium or low
Fire or cooking utensils causing burns	Cooking burns from kettle, pans, burning wood or hot water	Fire circle to be a clearly defined area. Limited number of children to be cooking depending on age. Group leader to move pans on and off the fire. Parents to watch their own and be aware of other children going into the fire circle without being asked or asking. Burns kit available. Fire blanket available.	H
Food that has just been cooked being too hot to eat	Burns from hot food	Participants to be reminded to wait until food cools down. Older children to be given reminders, younger children given food when cool enough to eat	M
Food allergies	Discomfort or illness	Leader to check food allergies and plan cooking activities to suit needs of the group.	L
Fire spreading	Surrounding ground and vegetation catching fire	Fire pit placed in area where leaf litter has been cleared. Burning sticks to be kept over the pit. Bucket of water to be near the fire pit area.	L
Trip hazards or falling over near the fire	burns	Fire area clear of trip hazards . Seating to be 2 meters from the fire. Limited number around the fire. Children to sit with me or a parent when cooking or putting sticks onto the fire	H

Risk Assessment – Tools

With our groups, we will use vegetable peelers to whittle, secateurs, sometimes loppers, a bow saw, a hammer. We also use a bill hook and mallet to split wood. All these are used 1:1 with the group leader or with a parent or carer if they feel confident.

Hazard	Uncontrolled outcome	Preventative measures	Risk level – high, medium or low
Tools slipping when in use	Injury	Tool maintenance – kept sharp and usable. No gloves on tool hand. Rigger gloves on the hand that doesn't hold the tool. Group leader or parent to hold the tool with the child and point the blade end towards themselves.	L
Injury during transportation or tool removal for use	Injury.	Tools to be kept in a bag which is not accessed by children and only by the Group leader and the adults. Tools e.g peelers to be counted in and out of the bag.	M
Tools breaking	Injury	Regular tool maintenance by group leader.	L

Risk Assessment – being off ground and shelter (den building)

Hazard	Uncontrolled outcome	Preventative measures	Risk level – high, medium or low
Falling from rope swing or rope bridge	Injury – sprain or head injury	Standing rope on rope bridge to be of a height where children can step on and off comfortably. Adult supervision at all times. Rope swings also to be off a height where children can get on and off with little help. Use of an area without tree stumps, stones or sticks	L
Falling from a tree	Injury – sprain or head injury	Children to only climb to their ability and not to be helped – other than if they get stuck. Children NOT to climb above the supporting adults head height.	L
Walking into ropes (entanglement)	Rope burn or entanglement	Ropes are made from a bright colour. Rope work, den building or tying practice to be supervised at all times. Ropes counted in and out.	L
Ropes or knots failing	Falling and injury	Check equipment regularly and check rope bride, swing before children use it.	L