# Risk Assessment – Mud play

**To be read in conjunction with other risk generic assessments i.e. General Welfare and Weather, Daily/ Site Specific and emergency site information.**

<table>
<tr><td colspan="5">Risk Benefit: What is the benefit to the children of offering this experience?<br>Raises the confidence of participants, teaches risk management, gives a sense of achievement and independence, experiential learning opportunity, develop creativity, reduces stress, decreases fear of getting dirty, develops imagination, develops hand eye co-ordination and fine motor skills, teaches about properties and what happens when materials are combined, highly inclusive activity</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Probability Score:<br>1. <5% chance that it will occur – very unlikely<br>2. 25% chance that it will occur<br>3. 50% chance that it will occur<br>4. 75% chance that it will occur<br>5. >95% chance that it will occur – very likely</td><td colspan="2">Severity Score<br>1. Not serious – no first aid required<br>2. Minor Injury – requiring basic first aid<br>3. Injury – requiring non immediate professional medical attention<br>4. Serious injury/multiple injuries – requiring immediate medical attention<br>5. Major accident – multiple injuries or fatality</td><td>Calculate the risk levels:<br>The rating is calculated from the probability multiplied by the severity which will give a rating between 1 & 25.<br>Our Forest School will not be carrying out any activities deemed to have a revised rating of over 12 as they are deemed too dangerous</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hazard</td><td>Who is at risk and from what?</td><td>Risk Rating (Probability x Severity = )</td><td>Control measures to reduce the risk and actioned by whom?</td><td>Revised Risk Rating (Probability x Severity = )</td></tr>
<tr><td>Slips and trips</td><td>Cuts, lacerations, or head injuries</td><td>3 x 4 = 12</td><td>Staff to:<br>• Advise participants of any known trip hazards and avoid areas with great amounts of hazards (such as areas with rabbit holes)<br>• Ensure all participants are wearing suitable foot wear</td><td>1 x 4 = 4</td></tr>
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| | | | • Advise participants to walk rather than run | |
| Dangerous items on the ground | Cuts. lacerations. Could also cause allergic reactions, or spread disease or infection. | 3x5=15 | Staff to:<br>• Do regular sweeps of the site to check for hazards<br>• Where practicable remove any hazards such as glass, litter, faeces etc as soon as they are found<br>• Show participants any hazards that can't be removed they need to avoid<br>• Remind participants of the no pick no lick rule | 1x5=5 |
| Ingestion of mud | Gastrointestinal problems | 4x4=16 | Staff to:<br>• remind participants not to put anything in or around their mouths<br>closely monitor anyone who is more likely to try to put things in their mouths | 1x4=4 |
| **Hazard** | **Harm** | **Risk Rating prior to control measures (Probability x Severity = )** | **Control measures to reduce the risk and actioned by whom?** | **Revised Risk Rating (Probability x Severity = )** |
| Standing water | Risk of drowning, risk of spreading disease | 3x5=15 | Staff to: | 1x5=5 |

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| | | | • Be aware of any containers that fill with water and empty them regularly to avoid build up of bacteria<br>In the case of large containers such as water butts fit a lid or cover to prevent children from climbing or falling in them, or situate them outside of the forest school area. | |
| Mud play equipment | Risk of bacteria forming | 3x4=12 | Staff to:<br>Clean and disinfect equipment should any of it look or smell like it needs it | 1x4=4 |

Date : 4/10/2026 Signed by: Liz Cooke