Risk Assessment – Climbing

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

Risk Benefit: What is the benefit to the children of offering this experience? Raises the confidence of participants, teaches risk management, gives a sense of achievement and independence, teaches about properties of materials: what is safe to climb, what it not, experiential learning opportunity, physical development.				
Probability Score: 1. <5% chance that it will occur – very unlikely 2. 25% chance that it will occur 3. 50% chance that it will occur 4. 75% chance that it will occur 5. >95% chance that it will occur – very likely	**Severity Score** 1. Not serious – no first aid required 2. Minor Injury – requiring basic first aid 3. Injury – requiring non immediate professional medical attention 4. Serious injury/multiple injuries – requiring immediate medical attention 5. Major accident – multiple injuries or fatality		**Calculate the risk levels:** The rating is calculated from the probability multiplied by the severity which will give a rating between 1 & 25. 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	
Hazard	**Who is at risk and from what?**	**Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)**	**Control measures to reduce the risk and actioned by whom?**	**Revised Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)**
Slips and falls	Cuts, lacerations, broken bones or head injuries	5x5 = 25	Staff to: • Select a suitable site for climbing. • Explain clearly the safety rules as described in P&P to all participants before they begin to climb, ie 3 points of contact at all times	3 x 3 = 9

			• Ensure all participants are wearing suitable foot wear. • Don't climb in wet weather when are slippers • Ensure participants don't climb so that their feet are higher than your head (that is all we are insured for!)	
Choice of tree to climb	Could cause allergic reaction, irritation to skin	3x3=9	Staff to: • Show participants which trees are good to climb and which to avoid, ie Elder • Explain how dead wood snaps easily and that certain branches should be avoided • Branches should be thicker than your forearm	1x3=3
Unsafe branches/dead wood	Cuts, lacerations, broken bones or head injuries	3x5=15	Staff to be aware of Beech trees self pollarding in late spring and to keep participants away from Beech trees during that time. Staff to dynamically risk assess and carry out regular sweeps checking for damaged, diseased or fallen branches. • Participants taught to test for stability before putting entire weight on any branches, and to	

			recognize what dead wood looks like and told to not to climb it.	

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