Risk Assessment – Swing

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? Builds confidence through managing swinging, climbing, and balance activities. | Encourages turn-taking, cooperation, and inclusive participation. | Improves balance, core strength, and coordination through dynamic movement challenges. | Promotes calculated risk-taking in safe, supervised settings. | Stimulates excitement and engagement through novel movement play. | Teaches physics concepts like tension, gravity, and momentum				
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 =)**
Branch failure	Branch snapping, head injury, crushing	4x5=20	Inspect and assess candidate branches for integrity, dead wood and cracks before each use. Only attach swing to healthy	2x4=8

			sturdy limb at chest-height or above, replace rope annually, and re-inspect regularly after storms.	
Collision with other children	Impact injury, bruising, head injury-	4x4=16	• Establish a clear drop-zone radius, only allow one child swinging at a time, mark swing area visibly, communicate boundaries to group, supervise closely and remind waiting children to wait well clear outside hazard zone. • Turn taking	1x3 =3
Collision with Tree or Fence	Impact injury, bruising, head injury	4x4=16	• Designated swing direction, parallel to Fence/pathway , never towards the tree • No pushing, swinging must be done under own man power, this reduced the likelihood of spinning on the swing	2x2=4
Inappropriate swing height	Overreaching, falling, injury	5x5=25	• Adjust swing length so feet stay below head height at full swing. Ensure seat height appropriate to child, allow stepping on/off without ladder or lift. • Maximum fall height from the end of the rope at its highest likely	2x2=4

			swing point. OK if 2 m or less as per insurance.	
Rope Failure	Rope snapping, head injury, crushing	4x5=20	Rope attached with a 2nd rope so it can be easily loosened and pulled down to check for fraying regularly	2x2=4
Fall Zone	Injury from impalement	4x3 = 12	Check the fall zone for hazards such as sharp objects and clear away	1x2=2
Behaviour	Injury	4x3=12	Adult supervision at all times, even if from afar. No standing on swing seat to avoid slipping or strangulation No pushing causing the swing to spin	2x2=4

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