Risk Assessment – Slack Line

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, experiential learning opportunity, development of balance and gross motor skills, builds up core muscles.				
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 trips onto the slackline	Cuts, lacerations, or head injuries, rope burn or strangulation from falls onto the slack line	3 x 4 = 12	Staff to: • Advise participants of any known trip hazards and avoid areas with great amounts of hazards (such as areas with rabbit holes) • Ensure all participants are wearing suitable foot wear • Advise participants to walk rather than run	1 x 4 = 4
Falling branches	Cuts and bruises, head injury	2x5=10	Sessions to be postponed if the wind is stronger than 7 on beaufort scale Staff to be aware of Beech trees self-pollarding in late spring and to put up the slack line away from Beech trees during that time	1x5=5

			Staff to dynamically risk assess and carry out regular sweeps checking for damaged, diseased or fallen branches, ensuring slack lines are not put up anyway near them	
Poorly maintained equipment	Frayed slack lines could fail and break causing participants to fall and hurt themselves	3x4=12	Staff to: • Regularly slack lines for signs of damage and decommission any that are deemed as unfit for purpose Put up the slack line properly, ensure it is tight enough	2x4=8
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 =)**
Falling off of the slackline	Participants could easily fall causing cuts, head injuries leading to concussion or potentially death	5x5=25	Staff to: • Ensure slack line is not overloaded by being aware of the load limit it can take, this is normally indicated on the safety labels • Instruct participants not to excessively rock or jump on the slack line • Erect the slack line at approximately the smallest participant's knee height so that it's low enough to allow participants to easily climb on and off of them, and so they don't have too far to fall, unless using with under 5's who are accompanied by their parents, in which case they will be assisted and it is better to have it at your knee height to enable the adults to hold the children easily • Ensure that the ground below them is free from hazards such as rocks or logs which participants could fall onto	2x5=10
Participants taking sticks onto the slack line	Participants could easily fall onto the stick impaling	5x5=25	Staff to ensure no sticks are taken onto the slack line	1x5=5

	themselves as they do so			

Date : 4/10/2026 Signed by: liz cooke