Risk Assessment – Ropes & String

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, teaches team work, gives a sense of achievement and independence, experiential learning opportunity, participants gain appreciation of the complexity and range of knots, development of communication skills, hand eye co-ordination, and gross and fine motor skills, allows opportunity for creativity and imaginative play, opportunity to practice tying knots.

Probability Score:	**Severity Score**	**Calculate the risk levels:**
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	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	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 ropes	Cuts, lacerations, or head injuries, rope burn or strangulation from falls onto ropes	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 • Ensure ropes are tied at a height that is not likely to create a trip hazard	1 x 4 = 4

Ropes	Rope burns, strangulation, walking into ropes causing a fall, misuse of ropes as whips	4x2=8	Staff to: • For permanent ropes use brightly coloured ropes where possible or tie bright flags or material to ropes to make them visible • Oversee the use of ropes and call a stop to any misuse of them • Demonstrate safe handling, how not to let a rope run through your hand, gloves can be worn if participant prefers • All non-play ropes to be put away when not in use into a sealable weather proof container	2x2=4
Poorly maintained equipment	Frayed ropes could fail and break, depending on what they are being used for participants to fall and hurt themselves	3x4=12	Staff to: • Regularly check ropes, for signs of damage and decommission any that are deemed as unfit for purpose	2x4=8

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