Risk Assessment – Natural Shelter building

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? Encourages teamwork, physical activity, learning new skills – how to make a stable shelter in the woods from natural materials that may even protect from aspects of weather. Encourages use of natural materials. Children are able to see end results and realise enjoyment from outdoor woodland without any additional resources				
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 =)**
Use of Rope	Risk of strangulation/entanglement		See Ropes Risk Assessment	
Trips, Slips & Falls	Risk from tripping over objects: Uneven ground Tree roots Rabbit holes Steep bank Hidden objects	2x2=4	• Give safety talk and walk site on arrival, making participants aware of hazards, uneven, muddy or slippery ground. • No running • Prior information sent to participants suggesting they wear appropriate sturdy outdoor footwear with a firm grip	

			• FS leader should monitor ground conditions and fill out daily site check before each session	
Manual handling of sticks and logs	Risk of injury from lifting heavy or bulky logs	2x3=6	• If a stick or log is larger than a person, they should get at least one other person to help carry • When building the shelter, the heaviest end should be placed on the floor with the lightest end propped against the tree/other logs. • When carrying sticks be aware of other people around you. • Other people need to keep their distance from people carrying logs • Do not run when carrying stick or logs • Logs can be slippery so hold carefully or get help from another person • FS leader to monitor shelters and help with build if unsafe • dismantle dangerous or unstable shelters	1x3=3

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