Risk Assessment – Collecting Natural Materials

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

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Risk Benefit: What is the benefit to the children of offering this experience?
Gaining experience spending time in natural surroundings/woodland environment. Connecting with nature. Learning about the natural environment. Staying safe in all weather conditions. Taking part in recreational activities in the woodland gives physical, mental, social and emotional benefits.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Probability Score:
<5% chance that it will occur – very unlikely
25% chance that it will occur
50% chance that it will occur
75% chance that it will occur
>95% chance that it will occur – very likely</td><td colspan="2">Severity Score
Not serious – no first aid required
Minor Injury – requiring basic first aid
Injury – requiring non immediate professional medical attention
Serious injury/multiple injuries – requiring immediate medical attention
Major accident – multiple injuries or fatality</td><td>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</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hazard</td><td>Who is at risk and from what?</td><td>Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)</td><td>Control measures to reduce the risk and actioned by whom?</td><td>Revised Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Accident/ Illness-</td><td>may suffer accident, illness requires treatment etc.</td><td>2x2=4</td><td>Induction and reminder health and safety talks given to emergency situation to new staff, volunteers and participants
Up to date first aid kit on site</td><td>1x2=2</td></tr>
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			• Appropriate no. of first aid trained staff and volunteers on site during sessions • Accident book for incident recording on site • Emergency site information sheet available to direct emergency services to site • Charged mobile phone/s available and emergency site information form available to show directions to nearest main lines phone.	
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	
Flora/fauna	Risk of allergy	2x2=4	• Pre session check of site to remove or mark any poisonous plants • Children to be made aware of common plants like stinging nettles and brambles • Make participants aware of toxic lookalike plants eg Lords & Ladies and Wild Garlic • If not sure, ask before picking • Or only pick fallen leaves • Any allergies to be known and advised by staff, epi pen as required. • Tell students to only take resources if they are plentiful	1x2=2
Unsuitable fuel selection	At worst could be fatal as some woods are toxic. Could also cause excessive smoke or sparks	5x5=25	Staff to: • Show participants which wood is safe to use and which to avoid.	1x5=5

			• Explain how dead wood snaps easily and that ground wood is likely to be damp and that using wet wood causes excessive smoke. • Tell students to only take resources if they are plentiful • If there is not a sustainable amount of fuel available then staff need to buy wood in for groups to use.	
Litter/Waste Hazards	Risk of injuries or infections from dangerous rubbish and animal waste	2x2=4	• Pre session check of site • Mention dangerous litter and animal waste in pre session chat, fox/badger/sheep faeces • Gloves available if required • Anti-bacterial soap, water and a clean towel available to clean hands. • Dangerous area due to litter/waste to be roped off.	1x2=2

Date : 3/10/2026 Signed by: Liz Cooke