

Site Specific Risk Assessments

Identified Hazards:
Nearby reservoir

Hazard:							
Nearby Reservoir. Risk of hypothermia, infection, death by drowning, death by complication.							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers	X	Young People	X	General Public			
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people given clear boundaries as to the area they can access. • First Aid kit carried by designated staff member. • Designated staff member to hold outdoor first aid certificate. • Designated staff member to carry reaching throw or life ring. 							
Benefits							
Opportunities to develop motor skills. Stimulation of creativity and imagination. Water play can be emotionally therapeutic. Promotion of cognitive development and understanding of water science – properties of water, what floats or sinks etc.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	1	Severity	5	Score	5	Risk	Low

General Forest School Risk Assessments

Identified Hazards:
Child protection issues
Slips, trips and falls
Insect bites/stings
Infection
Allergic reaction
Getting lost
Poor behaviour
Woodland fire
Weather
Transport
Building shelters
Activities
Tools

Hazard:							
Child protection issues.							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers		Young People		X	General Public		
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff will hold an enhanced DBS certificate. A child protection policy is in place and will be adhered to by all staff/volunteers. 							
Benefits							
N/A							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	1	Severity	5	Score	1	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Slips, trips and falls.							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers	X	Young People	X	General Public			
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and young people to wear appropriate footwear to minimise the risk of slipping or tripping. • Young people given clear boundaries as to the area they can access. • Trails and paths to be routinely monitored for obstacles or potential dangers such as falling branches. • First Aid kit carried by designated staff member. • Designated staff member to hold outdoor first aid certificate. 							
Benefits							
Development of motor skills. Improved balance. Encourages increased awareness of environment and self within it.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	2	Severity	2	Score	4	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Insect bites and stings.							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers	X	Young People		X	General Public		
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is probable that a variety of insects, that can bite or sting, will be around in any woodland environment. Young people may bring their own insect repellent at their own risk. • All young people to have completed an Essential Information sheet advising of any known allergic reactions to insect bites and stings. • First Aid kit carried by designated staff member. • Designated staff member to hold outdoor first aid certificate. 							
Benefits							
Opportunity to study the way different insects move around, communicate and smell or taste. Other than bees and wasps insects are generally safe for children to capture and observe. Positive approach to insect presence can challenge idea of insects being something to fear.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	2	Severity	2	Score	4	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Infection, specifically through consumption.							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers		Young People		X	General Public		
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people must not eat or drink whilst engaged in activities. • Young people must not eat anything they find in the woodland without checking with staff. • Young people must wash their hands before consuming any food or drink. • Young people must avoid putting their hands near or in their mouths without cleaning them. • First Aid kit carried by designated staff member. • Designated staff member to hold outdoor first aid certificate. 							
Benefits							
Wild foraging supports the identification of plants and can be used to help children identify both edible and poisonous plants. Supports awareness of biodiversity of the site.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	1	Severity	5	Score	5	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Allergic reaction.							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers		Young People	X	General Public			
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All young people to have completed an Essential Information sheet advising of any known allergic reactions. • Young people to bring along appropriate medication prescribed to them. • First Aid kit carried by designated staff member. • Designated staff member to hold outdoor first aid certificate. 							
Benefits							
Presence of an allergen can be used, appropriately, in a positive way to promote independence in avoiding the allergen.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	1	Severity	5	Score	5	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Getting lost.							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers		Young People		X	General Public		
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people given clear instructions regarding the areas they can access and must not stray from them. • If lost young people are to remain where they are. • Designated staff member to carry mobile phone during all activities. 							
Benefits							
If the child is aware they are lost it is an experience of dealing with a situation likely outside of their comfort zone. An exercise in problem solving and initiative.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	1	Severity	1	Score	1	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Poor behaviour.							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers	X	Young People	X	General Public	X		
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people to be given clear guidelines as to what behaviour is and is not acceptable during each activity. • All young people to have completed an Essential Information sheet advising of any specific risk. • Activity to be stopped if the behaviour of any young people make it unsafe. • Designated staff member to carry mobile phone during all activities. 							
Benefits							
Opportunities for others to display empathy and further develop social skills. A chance for the young person to put into practise self-control and to learn more about themselves.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	3	Severity	2	Score	6	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Woodland fire.							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers	X	Young People		X	General Public		X
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event of fire all group members to remain together and make their way to the emergency assembly point. • Designated staff member to carry mobile phone during all activities. • First Aid kit carried by designated staff member. • Designated staff member to hold outdoor first aid certificate. 							
Benefits							
Opportunity to work as a team and experience dealing appropriately and calmly in a crisis or emergency.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	1	Severity	5	Score	5	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Fire / cooking							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers	X	Young People		X	General Public		
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a clear space free from equipment or undergrowth around the fire area • Have extra water available to put out fire • Have burns kits available- • Have heat proof gloves and fire blanket available • Safety briefing on fire • Use fire wok to contain fire if necessary • First Aid kit carried by designated staff member. • Designated staff member to hold outdoor first aid certificate. 							
Benefits							
Development of awareness and respect of fire. Support awareness of self and environment working as a group managing a fire and safety aspects involved. Motor skill development – collecting fire wood, use of fire steel, managing the campfire, cooking on the campfire etc. Opportunities for tree identification when collecting suitable firewood.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	1	Severity	5	Score	5	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Transport							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers	X	Young People		X	General Public		X
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are familiar with safe walking procedures. • Staff will give instructions, such as single file walking, paired walking where applicable. • During progressive sessions children are gaining skills in performing risk assessments and will become more aware of dangers of moving about on site. • First Aid kit carried by designated staff member. • Designated staff member to hold outdoor first aid certificate. 							
Benefits							
Chance to explore different sites or different areas of the woodland. Awareness of dangers of transport, whether by foot or vehicle and a chance to practise recognising and avoiding or minimising those risks.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	1	Severity	5	Score	5	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Building shelters.							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers	X	Young People	X	General Public			
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are taught safe and effective knots as part of the Forest School Process • Rope is made in a bright colour (e.g. blue) so it stands out in the woodland environment, or hazard tape attached to guy ropes to ensure they are visible. • All participants, helpers and practitioners are involved in setting up shelters at “camp” so are aware of their location • Majority of shelters made using light weight tarpaulin • If high winds occur and shelters look unstable, they will be taken down or session will be terminated • First Aid kit carried by designated staff member. • Designated staff member to hold outdoor first aid certificate. 							
Benefits							
Opportunity to practise knots. Motor skills – collecting and transporting materials of different sizes and shapes. Problem solving in constructing a shelter from collected materials. Social skills development working in a group to construct a shelter.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	1	Severity	3	Score	3	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Activities.							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers	X	Young People		X	General Public		
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are reminded to take care during periods of play • Participants are taught safe and effective knots as part of the Forest School Process • Site specific risk assessment completed for every Forest School site • Exploration of Forest School site with all participants and helpers to identify any hazardous areas • Participants will have clearly identified boundaries which will be adhered to for the duration of the Forest School activity • Any relevant allergies, including to natural materials, to be declared on consent form • Rope is made in a bright colour (e.g. blue) so it stands out in the woodland environment, or hazard tape attached to guy ropes to ensure they are visible. • Participants, practitioners and helpers are reminded to wear practical clothing and footwear at all times during Forest School sessions • Bodies of water are clearly marker with fencing or roped off and appropriate enhanced level of supervision in place for all activities taking place near water. • Throw rope or life ring accessible during any activities near water. • Practitioners test strength of branches before participants climb trees • If participants are playing games with blindfolds, they are paired up with a sighted partner to avoid slips, trips and collisions • First Aid kit carried by designated staff member. • Designated staff member to hold outdoor first aid certificate. 							
Benefits							
Varies depending on activity – activity plans and/or sessions plans will indicate benefits of each activity.							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	1	Severity	4	Score	4	Risk	Low

Hazard:							
Tool use							
Who may be harmed?							
Employees/Volunteers	X	Young People		X	General Public		
Description of Existing Precautions and Risk Control Systems							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained Forest School Practitioner to deliver “tool talk” and demonstrate safe use of tool to helpers and participants with the introduction of each new tool • “Tool talk” to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Description of tool including working parts ○ How to carry tool ○ How to pass tool ○ How and where to store tool ○ How and when to use tool ○ Safe working distances from other people ○ Personal protective equipment required for use of tool • Appropriate ratios of Forest School practitioners and helpers to participants to ensure participants are monitored when using tools • Ensure tools are maintained properly at all times • Designated storage area for tools on and off site • Participants, helpers and practitioners all aware of location of storage areas and reminded to return tools to storage areas after use • Storage areas to be kept tidy at all times • Storage areas to be kept away from main thoroughfares to avoid trips • Tools to be stored in an appropriate way e.g. knives and saws inside a tool box • Clear instruction to be given to participants about tool maintenance during “tool talk” • Tool maintenance to be part of general practice at Forest School sessions • Practitioner to check tools are properly maintained on a regular basis • First Aid kit carried by designated staff member. • Designated staff member to hold outdoor first aid certificate. 							
Benefits							
<p>Motor skills development, fine and gross, through use of a variety of tools. Problem solving in working out how to use the tool in the correct/safe way. Social skills and team work when using a tool with a partner. Develop safety awareness. Opportunities for peer learning.</p>							
Risk Rating with Current Improvements							
Likelihood	1	Severity	4	Score	4	Risk	Low

Personal Protective Equipment Required

- Outdoor clothing suitable for the ambient weather at the time of year.
- Sensible footwear with tread to minimise risk of slipping and tripping.
- Insect repellent.
- First Aid kit to be carried by leading staff member.

Training/Qualifications/Permits Required

For Staff:

- Forest School Level 3 qualification.
- Outdoor First Aid qualification.
- Enhanced DBS certificate

For Young People:

- Staff must have a completed Essential Information sheet for each young person.

Risk Calculation

RISK = LIKELIHOOD x SEVERITY					
	1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely	Very Likely	Certain
Severity	Minor Injury	Moderate Injury	Reportable Injury	Major Injury	Fatality
RISK RESULT					
TOTAL 1 to 8 = LOW RISK		TOTAL 9 to 15 = MEDIUM RISK		TOTAL 16 to 25 = HIGH RISK	