

FOREST SCHOOL RISK ASSESSMENT

| Activity | Assessment Undertaken | Assessment Review |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Forest school site visit. | <i>Name:</i> Debbie Manns <i>Date:</i> February 2004 <i>Signed:</i> | <i>Name:</i> Debbie Manns <i>Date:</i> June 2004 |



| Significant hazards | Groups at risk | Existing controls, and risks not controlled + action needed |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Main rd adjacent to entrance | All | Mini bus transport to pull up directly adjacent to gate. The bus makes a natural barrier between the woodland & the road. |
| Gate | Staff | Gate to be removed by 2 adults and rotated 90 degrees to provide clear access to woodland path & barrier to footpath along main rd below gate area. |
| Nettles & Thistles | All | Pulled from path & base camp area regularly. long sleeved tops, long trousers, socks & shoes to be worn at all times. |
| Brambles | All | Cleared from access areas. Noted as land marks, children warned to avoid areas. |
| Leaving base camp area | Children | Double string surrounds base area with gate across single entry point. Clear rules forbidding the crossing of the string and dense nettle & bramble growth acts as further deterrent. |
| Poisonous plants | All | See handbook for list common poisonous plants & trees & symptoms. NO picking of anything growing policy enforced. Strict hand washing routine before eating & drinking and on return to playgroup. Some plants surrounded by high tree guards. (YEW) |
| Mushrooms & fungi | All | Look and call an adult to see. Do not touch any. |
| Dead branches. Stumps & roots. | All | Regularly inspected & felled where necessary. Dead wood on low bushes pruned. Old stumps & roots exposed and pointed out or removed. |
| Rabbit holes | All | Regular sweep of area to check for new holes |
| Bee/wasp stings | All | Regular sweep to check for nests |
| Fire | All | Strictly enforced protocol for area in proximity to fire. See handbook. |
| Tools | All | Tools packed and hung in tree out of reach. Correct use of tools taught when required. One to one supervision when using 'adult' tools. |

Clothing / Safety / Emergency Equipment Requirements

a) *Clothing and other equipment to be worn/carried by each participant :*
As per handbook

b) *Safety or other equipment to be carried by the group :*
Mobile Phone First Aid Kit Other: blanket, water, spare clothing, wet wipes, toilet tissue. See also kit list in handbook.

Safety Instructions

a) *Safety instructions to be given to children in advance :*
Handbook - See daily routine

b) *Safety instructions to be given to staff in advance :*
Handbook - See daily routine

c) *Verbal safety instructions to be given to group before departure / commencement :*
Handbook - See daily routine, check main activity sheet

Emergency Arrangements

- a) *In case of incapacitating accident :*
Provide first aid , call ambulance & inform parents / next of kin. *All other children to be contained in shelter area (story & songs)*. Transport may be called for early return if adult needed to accompany child in ambulance. Or if it is an adult who is hurt and the ratio drops. Write up accident report form and assess risk assessment!
- b) *In case of less serious accident :*
Provide first aid , Inform parent and write up incident on accident report form.
- c) *In bad weather :*
Contain children in shelter area. Send for transport early. Inform parents who may be collecting from woodland.

Overall Hazard Rating:

Low

Comments:

See also health & safety policy document in hand book.