

BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - BRANCHES & STICKS

Benefits of the activity

West Suffolk Hive CIC 
www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk

- muscle development
- coordination
- crafts - creating artwork or tools
- teamwork - social skills
- den building/shelter making

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
eye injury from stick being waved around	2	2	4	3
cuts/bruises from lifting heavy branches	2	1	2	2
splinters	2	1	2	2
injury to body from falling branches	2	2	4	3

Control Measures

- complete site risk assessment
- deliver clear instructions regarding expected behaviour when using sticks and branches
- do not allow anyone under the den/shelter while under construction
- check for loose branches and unfavourable weather conditions
- dismantle dens/shelters after sessions and especially before bad weather

Further Measures


- First aid kit on site and qualified first aider present
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
- annual review and updates of risk assessments

Date assessment completed: 21st Feb 2023


Assessment Completed by: Steph Holland

Date review due: 21st Feb 2024

BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - DEAD ANIMAL ON SITE

Benefits of the activity		West Suffolk Hive CIC  www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning opportunity – anatomy/life cycles/food chain etc connection with nature respect and dignity ceremony 				
Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
contamination via bacteria or parasites on the dead animal	1	3	3	2
emotional trauma/sense of loss	2	1	2	2
injury from teeth/claws/sting	1	2	2	2
Control Measures				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete site risk assessment – check for decomposing animals – decide if it is safe/appropriate to leave in place encourage children to be respectful and be aware of each other's reactions when dealing with death thorough hand washing before eating handle with gloves if necessary to move it advise participants not to touch the animal with their bare hands in case of living parasites etc if necessary, explain the natural life cycle of animals and, potentially, allow participants to perform a burial ceremony 				
Further Measures				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid kit on site and qualified first aider present qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present annual review and updates of risk assessments 				
Date assessment completed: 21st Feb 2023 Assessment Completed by: Steph Holland Date review due: 21st Feb 2024				

BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - EATING AT FOREST SCHOOL

Benefits of the activity		West Suffolk Hive CIC  www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Activity – promotes sense of community Restorative after active play Essential for keeping hydrated and energy levels high Improves knowledge of nutrients Cooking skills 				
Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Contaminents via insects/animals	1	2	2	2
Contaminents via spread of germs from fellow participants	1	2	2	2
Allergic reaction	1	3	3	2
proximity to dirty water – waterborne diseases spreading	1	3	3	2
Control Measures				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of hand washing facilities – running water and soap encouraging hand washing before eating and after each session discouraging attendance by adults/children who may have a communicable illness food and drink to be kept covered in a waterproof container where possible, participants to provide their own drinking bottle and snack to limit contamination all cooking equipment to be washed each time it is used follow basic food hygiene procedures when handling food session leader to be made aware of all dietary requirements and allergies each term 				
Further Measures				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid kit on site and qualified first aider present qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present annual review and updates of risk assessments 				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Date assessment completed: 21st Feb 2023 Assessment Completed by: Steph Holland Date review due: 21st Feb 2024 </div>				

BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - FIRES AND STOVES

West Suffolk Hive CIC 

www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk

Benefits of the activity

- Risk management
- Respect for the environment
- Social activity – promotes community
- Cooking skills
- ID skills when looking for suitable tinder
- Warming drinks and making hot soup/stew to warm up

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Burns and scalds to person tending fire and bypassers	2	2	4	3
Fire spreading to trees/bushes/buildings	1	2	2	2
damage to ground from heat	2	1	2	2
smoke inhalation – aggravating existing respiratory conditions eg asthma	1	3	3	2
injury to habitant wildlife	1	3	3	2

Control Measures

- complete site risk assessment
- follow fire policy and procedures
- ensure boundary around fire is clearly marked and at least 1.5m away
- ensure there are at least two exit routes away from the fire
- provide fire extinguishing kit including at least 5L water and a fire blanket
- ensure the area around and underneath the fire is clear from dry leaves/twigs and there is no sign of animals nesting nearby
- limit the number of people working with the fire at any one time
- always have an adult supervising the fire area as long as it is still lit
- ensure it is completely extinguished before leaving the site

Further Measures

- First aid kit on site and qualified first aider present
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
- annual review and updates of risk assessments

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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - MINIBEASTS

West Suffolk Hive CIC 

www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk

Benefits of the activity

- Respect for environment/nature
- Knowledge of wildlife/habitats
- Investigating skills
- Listening skills
- Fine motor skills

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
bites/stings/toxins from insects via bite/sting/ingestion	2	2	4	3
inhaling spores/allergens from fungi/plants	1	2	2	2
infectious disease from insect carrier - eg Lyme's disease from ticks	1	3	3	2
contamination from poor hand-washing after handling dirt/minibeasts	2	2	4	3
infection from contaminated water - eg Vile's disease	1	3	3	2
panic attack/phobia eg spiders	1	2	2	2
allergic reaction to insect sting - eg bee sting	1	3	3	3

Control Measures

- Complete site risk assessment - check for wasp/ant nests
- deliver clear instructions regarding handling of animals/insects and explain which ones ought to be avoided
- ensure all relevant medical conditions are known and you have received clear information regarding treatment etc
- encourage good hand washing before eating

Further Measures

- First aid kit on site and qualified first aider present
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - MUD

West Suffolk Hive CIC 

www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk

Benefits of the activity

- Boosts immune system
- Tactile activity
- Open-ended play
- Allows a greater physical connection with nature
- No equipment necessary

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMR
Slips, trips and falls by participants	2	1	2	2
Mud getting into eyes of participants	1	2	2	2
Contamination due to animal faeces/urine - risk of infection	1	3	3	3
Cuts due to sharp stones or broken glass in the mud	1	3	3	3

Control Measures

- complete site risk assessment and site check - check for obvious signs of animal waste
- ensure appropriate footwear is worn at all times
- give clear instructions that mud is not to be thrown at other people
- encourage good hand washing before eating

Further Measures

- First aid kit on site and qualified first aider present
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - PLANTS AND FUNGI

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Benefits of the activity

- ID skills – biological knowledge
- Respect for environment
- Sensory development
- Improved connection with the outside world

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Poisonous fungi – skin irritation or poisoning by ingestion	2	3	6	3
Poisonous berries – poisoning by ingestion	1	2	2	2
Allergic skin reaction to irritant – urticaria/rash	1	2	2	2
Stings and scratches from nettles, brambles etc	2	1	2	2
Trips and falls from ground level plants – brambles, tree roots etc	2	2	4	2

Control Measures

- Complete site risk assessment and site checks. If necessary, cordon off areas with poisonous or delicate plants or fungi
- obtain relevant medical information of participants – eg known allergies, asthma etc
- Ensure participants are wearing appropriate protective clothing and shoes
- use gloves when handling nettles/brambles

Further Measures


- First aid kit on site and qualified first aider present
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
- Annual review and update of risk assessments

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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - POND

Benefits of the activity		West Suffolk Hive CIC  www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological knowledge/ID skills Ecology of riverside plants and animals Teamwork Caring for the environment Investigating skills – measuring & collecting data 				
Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Drowning from falling into the pond – all participants	1	3	3	2
Weil's disease or other infection from contaminated water/blue-green algae	1	3	3	2
Trips and falls on slippery banks	2	1	2	2
Control Measures				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete site risk assessment and site check deliver clear instructions regarding safety near water – point out warning signs only use specific site for pond dipping – with adult supervision follow site recommendations regarding blue green algae and adhere to warning signs high adult-child ratio whenever near water 				
Further Measures				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid kit on site and qualified first aider present (if possible with water safety training) qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present annual review and updates of risk assessments. 				
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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - ROPES AND SWINGS

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Benefits of the activity

- Physical development and core strength
- Balance and coordination
- Concentration and patience
- Trust and teamwork
- Communication and listening skills
- Role play
- Risk-taking
- Rope tying/knot skills

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Strangulation by rope	2	3	6	3
Broken bones from falling	2	2	4	2
Head injury from falling	2	3	6	3
Cuts and grazes	3	1	3	2
Bystanders injured	2	2	4	2
Rope burns	2	1	2	2

Control Measures

- Carry out site risk assessment and site checks
- rope is checked for correct installation before use
- ensure loose end of rope is secured safely
- when activity is finished, ensure rope is taken down and stored in a dry place
- only run the activity in acceptable weather conditions (not wet/icy)
- spotter appointed to stay by the activity
- create a safe boundary zone around the area and limit the number of children using the rope at any one time.
- regularly check the ropes for any damage

Further Measures

- First aid kit on site and qualified first aider present (if possible with water safety training)
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
- annual review and updates of risk assessments.

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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - SENSORY ACTIVITIES (BLINDFOLDS ETC)

West Suffolk Hive CIC 

Benefits of the activity

www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk

- Helps with development of motor skills
- Improves balance and co-ordination
- Enhances listening and communication skills
- Teamwork skills
- Trust/empathy – forming relationships with fellow teammates
- Problem solving
- Sensory development
- Heightened awareness of surroundings and improving connection with the natural world
- Risk management

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Bump on head from walking into a tree or branch	2	1	2	1
Major injury to limbs/ joints from tripping on obstacles (break or sprain)	1	3	3	3
Minor injury to limbs/ joints from tripping on obstacles (bruise/pulled muscle)	3	1	3	2
Eye injury from branches or plants (scratch or penetrative injury)	1	2	2	2
Bruises, cuts, grazes or stings from nettles, brambles, logs etc	3	1	3	2
Panic attack from blindfold sensation	1	2	2	2
contamination from shared use of blindfolds	1	1	1	1
allergic reaction to vegetation or to blindfolds	1	3	3	3

Control Measures

- selecting a suitable site for the activity with no unnecessary obstacles on the route
- appropriate adult supervision
- an appointed person to be watching those blindfolded and ensuring they are not heading towards dangerous obstacles
- washing and drying the blindfolds after each use to avoid contamination spreading
- clearly explaining that those who feel uncomfortable are not obliged to be blindfolded

Further Measures

- First aid kit on site and qualified first aider present (if possible with water safety training)
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
- annual review and updates of risk assessments.

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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - TOOLS

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Benefits of the activity

- Improves manual dexterity and strength
- Access to new skills and equipment
- Problem solving
- Creativity and design
- Responsibility
- Hand/eye coordination
- Teamwork and patience
- Benefit to the environment from end product – eg bird box, insect house

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Major cut (severing or impaling part of the body)	1	3	3	1
Minor cut/graze	2	2	4	3
Injuring bystander or teammate	1	2	2	2

Control Measures

- complete site risk assessment and site checks
- teach safe practice and correct tool use
- designated work area for tool use
- tools stored in a safe place with access only by session leader
- careful maintenance of tools – sharpen/clean blades and drill bits
- ensure adult:child ratio is high enough for someone to supervise work area
- individual risk assessments for each tool

Further Measures

- First Aid kit on site and qualified first aider present
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
- annual review and update of risk assessments

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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - TOOLS - DRILLS

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Benefits of the activity

- Improves manual dexterity and strength
- Access to new skills and equipment
- Problem solving
- Creativity and design
- Responsibility
- Hand/eye coordination
- Patience
- Benefit to the environment from end product - eg bird box, insect house

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Major cut (severing or impaling part of the body)	1	3	3	1
Minor cut/graze	2	2	4	3
Injuring bystander or teammate	1	2	2	2

Control Measures

- complete site risk assessment and site checks
- teach safe practice and correct tool use
- designated work area for tool use
- tools stored in a safe place with access only by session leader
- careful maintenance of tools - clean/replace drill bits
- ensure adult:child ratio is high enough for someone to supervise work area

Further Measures

- First Aid kit on site and qualified first aider present
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
- annual review and update of risk assessments

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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - TOOLS - KNIVES

West Suffolk Hive CIC 

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Benefits of the activity

- Improves manual dexterity and strength
- Access to new skills and equipment
- Problem solving
- Creativity and design
- Responsibility
- Hand/eye coordination
- Patience
- Creating useful tools for the site – tent pegs, bashers, kindling etc

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Major cut (severing or impaling part of the body)	1	3	3	1
Minor cut/graze	2	2	4	3
Injuring bystander or teammate	1	2	2	2

Control Measures

- complete site risk assessment and site checks
- teach safe practice and correct tool use
- designated work area for tool use
- tools stored in a safe place with access only by session leader
- careful maintenance of tools – sharpen/clean blades
- ensure adult:child ratio is high enough for someone to supervise work area
- individual knives need to be signed in and out using the book in the tool box

Further Measures

- First Aid kit on site and qualified first aider present
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
- annual review and update of risk assessments

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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - TOOLS - SAWS

West Suffolk Hive CIC 

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Benefits of the activity

- Improves manual dexterity and strength
- Access to new skills and equipment
- Problem solving
- Creativity and design
- Responsibility
- Hand/eye coordination
- Teamwork and Patience
- Benefit to the environment from end product - eg bird box, insect house

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Major cut (severing or impaling part of the body)	1	3	3	1
Minor cut/graze	2	2	4	3
Injuring bystander or teammate	1	2	2	2

Control Measures

- complete site risk assessment and site checks
- teach safe practice and correct tool use
- designated work area for tool use
- tools stored in a safe place with access only by session leader
- careful maintenance of tools - clean/replace blades
- ensure adult:child ratio is high enough for someone to supervise work area

Further Measures

- First Aid kit on site and qualified first aider present
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - TOOLS - SECATEURS AND LOPPERS

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Benefits of the activity

- Improves manual dexterity and strength
- Access to new skills and equipment
- Responsibility
- Hand/eye coordination
- Conservation and ID skills - coppicing
- Providing materials for craft activities

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Major cut (severing or impaling part of the body)	1	3	3	1
Minor cut/graze	2	2	4	3
Injuring bystander or teammate	1	2	2	2

Control Measures

- complete site risk assessment and site checks
- teach safe practice and correct tool use
- designated work area for tool use
- tools stored in a safe place with access only by session leader
- careful maintenance of tools - sharpen/clean blades
- ensure adult:child ratio is high enough for someone to supervise work area

Further Measures

- First Aid kit on site and qualified first aider present
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
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BENEFIT RISK ASSESSMENT - TREE CLIMBING

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Benefits of the activity

- Develops muscle strength
- Improves balance and coordination
- Problem solving skills
- Develops confidence and builds self-esteem
- Relationship with the world, closer to nature
- Tactile sensation
- Role play
- Knowledge of tree identification/habitats

Risks	likelihood	severity	RR	PCMRR
Broken bones from falling from tree	2	2	4	2
Head injury from falling from tree	2	3	6	3
Eye injury from sharp stick (scratch or penetration)	2	2	4	2
Bite or sting from disturbed insects	1	2	2	2
Splinter from tree	2	1	2	2

Control Measures

- Complete site risk assessment and site checks
- ensure there are always three points of contact on the tree
- no one may climb to a height above 5m
- check the health/suitability of the tree
- do not allow other children to stand beneath the tree while it is being climbed
- designated spotter within sight of the tree
- explain safe practice for tree climbing

Further Measures

- First aid kit on site and qualified first aider present
- qualified Forest School leader or equivalent present
- annual review and updates of risk assessments

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