


Department: Tarves Primary School	RISK ASSESSMENT	Aberdeenshire COUNCIL 
Process/Activity: Forest School Activities	Location: Forest School Location	Date: 06.01.2022
Describe activity: Generic Site Risk Assessment		

Hazard	Person/s Affected	Risk	Risk level before controls are in place (delete as appropriate)		Control Measures	Risk level after controls are in place (delete as appropriate)	
Walking to / from Forest School location	All	Crossing roads, children wandering off	LOW		<p>Communicate with pupils where going and what expectations of them on walk are.</p> <p>Adult to walk at front and back of group to keep group together at all times. Adult to assist with crossing roads safely. Pupils to walk in pairs and head counts before leaving school playground and arriving at site location.</p> <p>Before heading back to school remind of expectations.</p>	LOW	
Medication not being taken to site	Certain pupils / staff	Asthma attacks, Allergic reactions, diabetic issues		MED	<p>Have a checklist for each class as to what medication is required to be taken and stored in First Aid Box during session that will be left in trolley at site unless in use.</p> <p>Check staff medication also is taken. Miss McBeath requires Ventolin inhaler</p>	LOW	

					<p>and own Epipen taken to site and staff will be made aware these are in own personal rucksack.</p> <p>Any issues with medication / illness the school office to be contacted in first instance. Emergency Contact Details in First Aid Box as well as on Miss McBeath. Emergency contact details for staff and parents stored on FS iPad also for emergency when school unavailable.</p>			
Boundaries of Forest School. Losing pupils.	All	Pupils wandering out of boundary	LOW		<p>On arrival at site talk to pupils / new parent helpers and visibly explain the boundaries. SEE TEMPORARY CHANGES TO SITE BELOW</p> <p>At the beginning of each session a reminder of all health and safety considerations for today's session.</p> <p>Regular headcounts during sessions.</p> <p>Adults to supervise and monitor where children are in space explained.</p> <p>Correct ratios to be maintained at all times. 1:8 for children P1-P3 1:10 for children from P4-P7.</p>	LOW		
Eating of inappropriate natural items like fungi, berries, etc.	Pupils	Becoming ill, sickness.	LOW	MED	<p>Warn pupils to not eat anything unless adult has given permission. No picking and tasting of anything that looks to them appealing.</p>	LOW		

Handling of forest items and touching our mouths, faces.					Reminder we do not put our fingers in our mouths during Forest School unless hands have been washed / antibacterial gel used. Only eat with permission from adult.			
Handling / Eating bugs	Pupils	Becoming ill, sickness	LOW		Children reminded that when touching items in natural environment we are not to put our hands in our mouths without first washing our hands / using antibacterial gel. Explaining why we cannot eat insects and that we must respect nature at all times.	LOW		
Uneven ground / wet or icy	All	Trips, slips and falls	LOW		Explain that ground is uneven and stones in places so to be aware as moving around site. At moment more small sticks on ground also. Keeping running to minimum. Also when wet the ground might be more slippy and prone to falls and bumps. Be more aware of icy pavements on route to and from Forest School. No running rule in fire circle in case any equipment / fire set up.	LOW		
Tree's / Plants structures, etc	All	Branches falling / sticking out. Nettle Stings	LOW		Before each session a daily risk assessment will take place. Looking for any dangers from ground to canopy level. Assess what actions need to be taken such as cordoning area off. Remind pupils a lot of nettles on site, lot cleared but if go into certain areas there is a greater risk. Identifying plant and	LOW		

					why to avoid also explained.		
Adverse weather conditions	All	Correctly dressed for activities	LOW		Before departing school for Forest School location making sure pupils are correctly dressed for weather conditions. Footwear is sensible, enough layers, sun tan lotion on hot day. If adverse weather decision taken to cancel session made by FS Leader / Headteacher	LOW	
Issues with site after adverse weather such as rain / high winds	All	Injury from site conditions due to weather	LOW		Forest Leader to risk assess site before taking pupils out of school if previous high winds / bad rain. Full assessment of site to see if still able for session to run without risk of injuries. If session going ahead, warn children to be aware of any potential hazards to report to adults during the session. Dynamic risk assessment. Make sure everyone wearing appropriate clothing such as wellies if site is muddy / wet.	LOW	
Temporary site changes from January 2022	All	Injuries from trips, falls		MED	After Storm Arwen the site is actually still unsuitable due to fallen trees. We are temporarily going to use the playgroup side. New boundaries will have to be explained. Fallen branch they can now climb on will need to be explained. Pupils to assess risk as they use and remember rough edges, the sign of storm damage. Reminder of what is playgroup equipment and how we should use this.	LOW	

					<p>Not to cross the boundary to other side of site under any circumstances.</p> <p>In letter to parents explain this side of site is much colder / windy and therefore layers are more essential!!</p> <p>Make sure jackets, gloves and hats kept on at all times when colder in winter months.</p>		
Use of swing / ladder	Pupils	Injury from falling, bumped		MED	<p>Checking branch that using is safe to hold weight of child / person using it. Looking for any signs of dead wood and not using.</p> <p>Checking ground and areas is clear from any hazards while the swing / ladder would be in use.</p> <p>Reminding pupils of risk of using swing or ladder to themselves and those around them. Always make sure plenty of space for swinging / twisting.</p> <p>Safely getting on/off the swing or ladder.</p> <p>First aid kit at site for any injuries.</p> <p>Supervision by adult when in use if possible.</p>	LOW	
Use of tyre swing	Pupils	Injury from falling, hit by someone else Broken bones		MED	<p>Checking branch that using is safe to hold weight of child / person using it. Looking for any signs of dead wood and not using.</p> <p>Checking ground and areas is clear from any hazards while the swing / ladder would be in use.</p>	LOW	

Climbing Trees	Pupils	<p>Injury from falling or slipping.</p> <p>Broken bones</p>		MED	<p>Reminding pupils of risk of climbing trees and wearing correct clothing / footwear.</p> <p>If wet no climbing of trees.</p> <p>Under supervision of adult and assessing tree and area at bottom of tree before climbing of trees.</p> <p>No jumping out of tree, especially from height.</p> <p>Make sure no distractions while climbing that could lessen concentration.</p> <p>No more than one person up a tree at a time. No climbing on branches smaller than wrist width. Reminder that they climb to height then are confident getting down from not where others have suggested they climb too.</p> <p>First aid kit at site for any injuries.</p> <p>Supervision by adult when in use if possible.</p>	LOW		
Hammock	Pupils	<p>Injury from hammock breaking</p>		MED	<p>Testing once up that can take weight of person in hammock.</p> <p>Warning against swinging someone in hammock as could cause injury.</p> <p>Teaching correct way to get in and out of hammock to lessen the risk of injury.</p> <p>First aid kit at site for any injuries.</p> <p>Supervision by adult when in use if possible.</p> <p>NOT SURE OF SUITABLE SITE FOR THIS CURRENTLY</p>	LOW		

Please see separate risk assessment sheets for

- Tools
- Fire / Kelly Kettle
- Den Building