

St Faiths Forest School

Risk/ Benefit Analysis

Forest School Activities

RISK

- Low (L) Something which may result in a minor injury such as scratches, bruises or minor discomfort.
- Medium (M) Something which could result in major injury (broken bone, severe cut or burn which results in being taken to hospital).
- High (H) Something which could result in multiple major injuries or death.

LIKELIHOOD

- Low (L) The suggested risk is unlikely to happen during the activity.
- Medium (M) The suggested risk could happen during the activity.
- High (H) The suggested risk is extremely likely or certain to occur during the activity.

Hazard	Benefit	Who can be harmed? How?	Risk Level	Likeli- hood	Control measures	Risk level after control measures	Likelihood level after control measures
Shelter Building (Natural/ tarp shelters)	-Teamwork -Survival skills -Perseverance -Problem solving -Time management -Being outside in a woodland environment	Everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rope burns• Strangulation• Scrapes/ cuts from branches• Being hit by collapsing shelters/ branches being transported	H	M	-Safety talks for rope use/ mallets/ tent pegs -Moving sticks and branches – Check surroundings, drag if longer than your arm! -Teach safe and effective knots -Leaders assess safety of shelters before children go in -If weather conditions become unsafe e.g. windy, shelters will be taken down -Bright coloured ropes used for visibility	L	L

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand injuries (mallet) Trips/ falls – ropes and branches 					
Slackline	-Building confidence -Developing balance and co-ordination skills -Encouraging perseverance	Everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falling from slackline Laceration from slackline Rope burn from guide rope 	M	M	-Slackline attached securely to trees and safety checks completed (as per instructions) -Participants shown how to use slackline safely -Practical clothing and footwear to be worn -Adult to support younger children/ new users -Do not step/ climb over slackline -Do not step on to/ tamper with ratchet lock	L	L
Rope Ladder	Building confidence -Developing balance and co-ordination skills -Encouraging perseverance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falling Tripping Rope burns to hands and other body parts Falling debris from trees Head bumps- rungs/ tree 	H	M	-Rope ladder attached securely to tree branch and ground -Participants shown how to use safely -Practical clothing and footwear to be worn -Adult to support younger children/ new users -To minimise rope burns, encourage children to hold on to wooden rungs -Remove any loose/ protruding branches from above ladder -1 person at a time on the rope ladder -Climb down ladder, not jump off -Keep area around base of ladder clear	M	L
Rope Swing	Building confidence -Encourages perseverance -Builds up core strength -Learning about managing risk	Everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falling Friction burn from gripping/ sliding off branch Being kicked by another person whilst they are swinging Swinging into log seats/ tree trunk and bumping legs 	M	M	-Rope attached securely to tree branch -Participants shown how to use safely -Woolly gloves removed to give better grip -Adult to support younger children/ new users -1 Person at a time to use swing -When finished swinging, keep hold of the branch and pass to the next person OR make sure it is still before walking away -If a fall occurs, remain on the ground until an adult stops the swing -Leave the area surrounding the swing clear (marked by cones/ rope)	L	L

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being bumped by branch if swing is left swinging 					
Collecting natural materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Deepens understanding of the environment and its flora/ fauna -Enhances creative play -Learning to respect and care for nature 	<p>Everyone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puncture wounds e.g. from thorns Splinters Cuts to hands from litter/ branches Animal faeces – risk to health Poisoning – from toxic plants/ some types of fungi 	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wear gloves to protect hands when handling fauna with thorns/ spikes -Remove any litter from site before each session. Ensure all litter is placed in a bag during session. Use litter picking rods to pick up litter -Check site for animal faeces before each session. Teach children to identify and inform an adult if they find any animal faeces -keep up to date record of flora and fauna on site. Teach children the 'no pick, no lick' rule! 	L	L
Fire and cooking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Responsibility -Awareness of self/ environment and others -New experiences -Being challenged in order to build confidence -Building land management knowledge/ knowledge of materials -Understanding the need for rules/ safety -Understanding our impact on the environment 	<p>Everyone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burns Blisters Scalding Burns from food Uncontrollable fire spreading – risk to others near site 	H	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensure that there are no low, overhanging tree branches above fire circle -Before a fire is ever lit, all children to demonstrate that they can follow fire safe rules -Ensure there is a bucket of water nearby and a first aid kit to hand -Stay out of the fire circle unless invited in by leader -Walk around the outside of the fire circle -Fire to be lit at arm's length whilst in the respect position -Wear fireproof gloves when placing materials onto fire - Do not cast aside any hot materials -Do not leave smouldering fire unattended -Ensure fire is fully extinguished and cooled before leaving site -Leave hot food to cool a little before giving to children -Teach children to blow on hot food and not attempt to eat until its cool enough 	L	L

Updated: 14/07/25