

Forest School Risk Assessment



*Challenge, Development,
Education & Fun*

www.wolt.org.uk

Location: Roundwood, Brokerswood

Date: Jan – Dec 2016

Assessor: Darren Oram

Activity: Forest School Intro Programme

PPE: Heat proof gloves, safety glove,

Activity	Hazard	Risk	• Control Measures	Further
Shelter Building	Falling trees / limbs Dead wood -	Falling on to students.	Assess trees – look for large dead limbs – avoid building shelters under that area. Staff to encourage ‘wiggle test’ and regularly check shelter is OK	Staff to monitor
Fire- work (marsh mellows / boiling water / cooking)	Fire, boiling water, hot food	Burns and scalds Spreading of fire	*Clear fire areas *Fire bucket next to fire *Staff to demonstrate ‘respect kneel position’ when approaching fire and to monitor * Use of fire glove when using frying pans	Staff may need to put out fire if an individual is not listening / following instructions
Collecting and using natural materials	Poisonous plants Cuts / stings Trip hazards	Illness due to poisons / toxins Allergic reactions Falling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight specific plants to avoid (e.g. Lords and ladies) • Group to wash hands before eating • Respond to medical consent 	

			forms (e.g. allergic reactions) – may need epi-pens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight the need to look down to avoid trip hazards 	
Off-the-ground activities	Trees	Falling	Encourage members to climb no higher than my shoulder height Highlight rotten branches	
Blindfold activities	Trees / roots / branches	Falling / tripping / collisions	Encourage slow movement – feeling ahead Move major trip hazards Remove any sharp branches	
Chasing games (e.g. 40/40 in)	Trees / roots / branches	Falling, twists, collisions	Before game highlight trip hazards and branches. Monitor and adjust / end game if needed	
Tool usage (knives, axe, bow saw)	Sharp tools, other students	Cuts, stabs, chopping. Potential serious incident	Instructors to follow Forest School protocol on tool usage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool talk • Blood bubble • Glove on non tool hand • Specific area for tool usage • Monitor usage 	Tools will be removed from any pupil who is deemed unsafe
Archery / Oreinteeing / Canoeing			See separate risk assessments	