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| Location: Pikeshaw Woods, Tilehurst | | | | Name: Alison Turner | | | | | Date: 21st April 2019 | | |
| Description of site activity: Woodland Play activities, den building, | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Hazard** | **Harm** | **People at risk** | **Existing preventative measures** | | **Probability 1-5** | **Severity 1-5** | **Rating 1-25** | **New preventative measures** | | **Who? When?** | **Benefits** |
| Exploring the site | Bruises and grazes from trips or falls, eye level branches | All users of Purley Pre School Forest School sessions but particularly children | Awareness talks.  Site management – removal of eye level branches | | 3 | 2 | 6 | Continue to share safety information with users. Carry equipment to remove any obstructions | | Forest School Leader – ongoing risk assess | Hands on learning about nature  .  Health and wellbeing from being outdoors  Developing a respect for nature |
| Dogs | Aggressive dogs – bites, scratches  Being knocked over by over friendly dogs | All Forest School participants | Making all participants aware not to approach dogs in the woods. Sufficient adult supervision to ensure safety | | 2 | 4 | 8 | Continue to share safety measures with users | | Forest School Leader – all adults | Developing an understanding and respect for animals. |
| Waste, dog poo, general rubbish | Ingestion, cuts scratches | All Forest School participants | Daily risk assessments by FSL | | 5 | 2 | 10 |  | |  |  |
| Nettles, brambles | Stings and scratches | All Forest School Participants | Making participants aware of their surrounds and not to touch nettles or brambles without safety equipment (gloves) reinforce the need for correct clothing .  Pull nettles from “base camp” area regularly.  Children encouraged to avoid areas with high density of nettles and brambles. | | 4 | 1 | 4 |  | |  |  |
| Crossing main road outside school | Cars – no crossing patrol during FS sessions | All participants of Forest School | High adult:child ratio. Children taught how to cross safely and always with an adult.  Hi-vis vests | | 1 | 4 | 4 |  | |  |  |
| Bees and wasps | Stings | All participants of Forest School | Teaching children how to behave around bees and wasps to reduce the likelihood of being stung | | 1 | 2 | 2 |  | |  |  |
| Ropes and swings | Possible rope burns  Bumps, bruises, falls | The children using the equipment | Only rope swings constructed by staff to be used – thus ensuring safety. | | 3 | 2 | 6 | Site inspection on arrival to ensure a suitable tree branch is used. Rope is checked for fraying or damage before each use | | FS Leader | Physical strength and coordination.  Overcoming fears |
| Blindfold Games | Bumps, trips, falls, head injuries, cuts, bruises, disorientation grazes, panic | The child who is blindfold | Safety instructions will be given to the group prior to the activity.  No child will be forced to wear a blindfold – an option of just closing eyes or covering hands with face and not peeking. | | 2 | 2 | 4 | Inspection of site on arrival to ensure no trip hazards are in the way | | FS Leader | Overcoming fears, |
| Collecting Natural Materials | Lifting injuries, strains, slips, trips, falls, poisoning, cuts, grazes, thorns, splinters, stings, | The child/children that are collecting | Safety instructions given prior to the activity. Children shown how to lift safely  Children supervised throughout the activity with an adult present/nearby  Site regularly inspected for knowledge of poisonous plants. Children made aware what they can and can’t collect | | 3 | 2 | 6 |  | | FS Leader | Gaining knowledge and confidence in the local woodland  Physical strength  Hands on learning about nature  Health and wellbeing from being outdoors |
| Climbing trees or on structures at site (being “off the ground”) | Slips, trips, bumps, falls, impact, head injuries, strains, entanglement, disturbance of wasps, bees or birds | The children that are climbing on a structure | Weather check in line with weather risk assessment below.  Safety check of structure to be used for climbing – ensure it is not wet and slippery and is not rotten.  FS Leader to select a safe tree for climbing  All climbing activities to be closely supervised  Safe climbing to be demonstrated or guided  Rest periods  Visual assessment for any animal life  Participants will not climb wearing loose clothing, or articles that could become entangled in the branches | | 2 | 5 | 10 |  | | FS Leader | Confidence  Physical strength and ability  Personal , social and emotional development |
| Tools – Use of Billhook | wounds | Person using billhook and those close by | Ensure all users are aware of the “tool talk” and follow billhook policy for proper use.  no glove to be worn on the hand using the tool but glove worn on the other hand  tools to be counted in and out each session  one to one supervision  used in designated area only  a reminder to other FS children to stay clear of tools | | 3 | 5 | 15 |  | |  |  |
| Bow Saw  Falling branches | Cuts and wounds | Person using bow saw and those nearby | Ensure all users are aware of the “tool talk”  Follow Bow Saw Policy for proper use  no glove to be worn on the hand using the tool but glove worn on the other hand  tools to be counted in and out each session  one to one supervision  used in designated area only  a reminder to other FS children to stay clear of tools | | 3 | 5 | 15 |  | |  |  |
| Knives | Wounds – cuts | Person using the knife and those nearby | Ensure all users are aware of the Knife “tool talk”  Follow the knife policy for proper use  no glove to be worn on the hand using the tool but glove worn on the other hand  tools to be counted in and out each session  one to one supervision  used in designated area only  a reminder to other FS children to stay clear of tools | | 3 | 5 | 15 |  | |  |  |
| Mallet/Hammer | Bumps/Grazes | Person using the mallet and those nearby | Inform person using the mallet of “tool talk”  Follow the Mallet policy for proper use  no glove needed  tools to be counted in and out each session  one to one supervision  used in designated area only  a reminder to other FS children to stay clear of tools | | 3 | 5 | 15 |  | |  |  |
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| Lost or missing children |  |  | Clear rules about boundaries and staying with an adult. High adult:child ratio | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Poisonous plants/ Mushrooms/Fungi |  |  | See handbook for Forest School rules about not picking any plants or flowers.  Handwashing routine before eating or drinking and on return to Pre-School. Familiarity with poisonous species. | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Den building | Being hit by sticks or stones. Cuts, bruises. Head/eye injury | Those involved in den building or close by. | Dens will only be built on ground level using natural materials found on site. No tool use involved | | 5 | 1 | 5 | Site inspection on arrival to check for any new hazards . | | Forest School Leader | Working collaboratively/teamwork. Developing physical strength and coordination.  Critical thinking and creativity – problem solving skills. Some sense of achievement – intrinsically motivated. |
| Weather  Cold weather such as Snow or Low temperatures | Ice – slips and falls  Snow – slips and falls, being hit by snowballs  Low temperatures – children being too cold/hypothermic | Children and adults not dressed sufficiently for the weather | Ensure everyone attending Forest School is wearing appropriate clothing . Send parents reminders prior to session and check weather forecast regularly. | | 3 | 2 | 6 | Ensure children are appropriately dressed. Provide some spare hats, scarves, gloves and socks.  Site inspection on arrival.  Decision whether to proceed with FS if snow is falling to be made on the day. | | Forest School leader | Understanding the properties of Ice.  Learning about weather  Physical development - Building with snow  Fun and enjoyment? |
| Rain | Getting wet and cold  Flooding of site (unlikely) | Children or adults not dressed sufficiently for the weather | Ensure everyone is dressed for the weather. Keep up to date with weather forecasts. | | 2 | 1 | 2 |  | |  | Splashing in puddles  Physical development  Understanding changes in weather. |
| Thunderstorms | Lightning strike – could strike a tall tree in the woods | Everyone attending pre school | Awareness of weather forecast and likelihood of thunderstorms or of a thunderstorm getting closer. | | 3 | 5 | 15 | Daily risk assessment to ensure FS leader is aware of weather forecast.  FS will be cancelled in the event of a thunderstorm with lightning bolts visible. | |  |  |
| Sunshine - | Sun stroke  Exhaustion  Thirst  sunburn | Ensure children wear sunscreen, sun hats and bring water bottles | Focus play in a shaded part of the woodland which will keep temperatures down.  Keep up to date with weather forecasts | | 3 | 3 | 9 | Daily risk assessment to ensure Children are dressed for the weather | |  | Spending time in outdoor environment rather than indoors. All the above benefits of play outdoors. |
| Fire and heat  (we are unlikely to have permission from Land-owner to have fire as other FS users are not permitted) | Burning of skin and clothes  Smoke inhalation  Irritation to eyes and throat | Children around the fire pit | Children will be given a safety brief before entering the fire pit area.  No walking between the seats and fire allowed. When at the fire everyone to adopt the safe sitting pose - on one knee to remain stable.  Maximum of 4 people at fire (incl. adults).  Fire is supervised at all times while alight or hot embers remain, to ensure children do not have unsupervised access. Children will be given rules and safety advice and dangers of fire prior to visiting the fire.  All staff attending FS are Paediatric First Aid Trained and FS Leader is FS First Aid Trained. first aid box will be available. Fire proof gloves within easy reach.  Fire will be in a soil pit surrounded by stones to prevent the fire escaping the area.  Fire area will be away from buildings.  The fire will not be under overhanging trees which may catch alight.  A good supply of water will be available to put out flames and dampen heat. A fire blanket will be available.  Embers will be dampened off with water and cooled and spread around with a spade  The position of the fire will be away from buildings and wind direction will be constantly assessed.  Children advised to move safely out of smoke direction.  Dry suitable wood used to prevent excess smoke. Use clear goggles if needed. | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Small tool use |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Your Comments:  Your main concerns: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Your recommendations:   1. Yes. Forest School can go ahead 2. No. Forest School cannot go ahead 3. Forest School can go ahead with the following conditions or adjustments being made: | | | | | | | | | | | |

* Site ✓
* Weather and general welfare✓
* Group✓
* Individuals (where required)✓
* Transport✓
* Building / Shelter✓
* Activities to include :
  + - rope and string ✓,
    - fire, ✓
    - water, ✓
    - collecting natural materials, ✓
    - being off the ground ✓
    - blindfolds ✓
* Tool Risk Assessments for all tools used;
  + - billhooks, ✓
    - saws,✓
    - penknives ✓
    - mallets ✓