

Learning in the Leaves

Risk Assessment

Low Risk	Something which may result in minor damage or slight harm (i.e. scratch or bruise)
Medium Risk	Something which may result in a significant loss/damage or major injury (broken bone or other injury, which results in person being taken to hospital for treatment)
High Risk	Something which may result in extensive damage, multiple major injuries or death



Collecting Natural Material Risk Assessment

The Hazard	What Might Happen?	Potential Level of Risk	Controls	Level of Risk After Controls	Does the Benefit Out way the Risks?	Responsibility
Lifting Materials	Material may fall causing injury. Material maybe too heavy causing injury.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety check area to ensure materials are in safe position. - Talk to group about how to select materials in a safe position. - Discuss with group how to lift heavier materials safely. 	Low	Natural materials are essential for free play and planned activities. Benefit out ways the risk.	Forest School Lead Practitioner.
Stings from insects and plants	Clients may choose stinging plants or materials with stinging insects on. Client may be stung.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove stinging plants from areas. - Discuss plants in area with clients. - Provide gloves for use during the collection. - Avoid areas known for stinging insects, 	Low	Natural materials are essential for free play and planned activities. Benefit out ways the risk.	Forest School Lead Practitioner.
Insects, wasps, plants and fungi	Possible allergic reaction, poisoning, choking	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find out about known allergic reactions within group - Warn children about wasps - Discuss poisonous plants and fungi - warn children not to eat anything or put fingers in mouth - Everyone to wash hands before lunch - Carry antiseptic wipes 	Low	Natural materials are essential for free play and planned activities. Benefit out ways the risk.	Group leader to know about children's allergies before entering the woodland.
Animal feces/ mud/ dirt/ etc	Infections in cuts etc	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide wet wipes and water for cleaning hands. - Ensure participants clean hands before eating and at end of session. 	Low	Natural materials are essential for free play and planned activities. Benefit out ways the risk.	Group Leader to ensure hand cleaning provision made.

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Rubbish/ Litter	Cuts/Scratches	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leader to collect litter from area beforehand. - Ensure first kit at hand if child cuts themselves 	Low	Natural materials are essential for free play and planned activities. Benefit out ways the risk.	Forest School Lead Practitioner.
Lifting and Swinging Sticks	Bangs/ bumps, scratches and bruises	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety briefing for all clients on how to carry materials. - Leader to intervene if clients using/carrying materials inappropriately. 	Medium	Natural materials are essential for free play and planned activities. Benefit out ways the risk.	Forest School Lead Practitioner.