

# 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



The Hazard	What Might Happen?	Potential Level of Risk	Controls	Level of Risk After Controls	Does the Benefit Out way the Risks?	Responsibility
Insects, wasps, plants and fungi	Possible allergic reaction, poisoning, choking	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Find out about known allergic reactions within group</li> <li>- Warn children about wasps</li> <li>- Discuss poisonous plants and fungi</li> <li>- warn children not to eat anything or put fingers in mouth</li> <li>- Everyone to wash hands before lunch</li> <li>- Carry antiseptic wipes</li> </ul>	Low	Yes – Significant benefits to being in a woodland environment. Children learn to respect the environment and about managing own risks in the woodland.	Group leader to know about children’s allergies before entering the woodland.
Medical Conditions	Asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Find out about known conditions before session</li> </ul>	Low	Yes – Significant benefits to being in a woodland environment. Children learn to achieve despite medical conditions.	Group leader to take responsibility for medical conditions of children and to bring equipment eg inhalers.
Lost Children	Getting lost, panic attack, potential abduction	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group stays together at all times.</li> <li>- Predefined area for children during woodland activity.</li> <li>- Count children regularly</li> </ul>	Low	Yes – Significant benefits to being in a woodland environment.	Group leader to do safety talk at start of session Adults to count and check children throughout visit
Weather (hot, cold, wet)	Sunstroke, sunburn, hypothermia, cold	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure children are wearing appropriate clothes.</li> <li>- Ensure children have sun-cream.</li> <li>- Ensure children are warm enough – encourage physical activity.</li> </ul>	Low	Yes – Significant benefits to being in a woodland environment.	Group leader to ensure children are appropriately dressed. Adults to keep an eye on children’s condition.
Pond/Water	Drowning	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safety Talk with group.</li> <li>- Ensure fence around pond is in good repair.</li> <li>- Ensure gate into pond area is shut.</li> </ul>	Low	Yes – Significant benefits to being in a woodland environment.	Forest School Leader

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Hiding Children in Woodland	Lost Child	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contained Woodland.</li> <li>- Safety talk discussing boundaries</li> <li>- Return whistle set up.</li> <li>- Additional Staff member watches the hiding individual from a distance.</li> </ul>	Low	Yes – Significant benefits to being in a woodland environment.	Group Leader and additional adult.
Shelter building	Strangulation by ropes or tarp, rope burns	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walking rule around shelters.</li> <li>- Safety talk about using ropes, where you attach them and at what height.</li> </ul>	Low	Yes – Significant benefits to being in a woodland environment.	Group Leader and additional adult

Completed By		Date		Review date if Required	
Signature		Date			