

Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School
Collecting Natural Materials Risk Assessment

Location: RINS Devonshire Drive, Mickleover, Derby DE3 9HE		Name: Stacey Hill Level 3 Forest School Leader				Date: 10 Sept 2022 Review: Annually	
Description of activity: Attendees on site engaged in FS activities will be encouraged to forage for natural materials under supervision. The area is fenced but open to wildlife therefore there is a danger from faeces. Seasonal dangers must also be discussed with the group prior to commencing any activity. Correct lifting and carrying techniques must be discussed to reduce the risk of accident.							
Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Probability	Severity	Rating	Preventative measures in place	Who is responsible?
Lifting Materials	Muscle strain, collision, pressure related injuries from dropping logs.	All	2	1	2	Shown correct lifting techniques and how to roll logs safely. Group encouraged to ask for help. All adults to use correct lifting techniques to model.	Forest School Leader Other adults
Fungi and toxic plants (including berries)	Poisoning, allergic reaction (skin), breathing difficulties	All	2	4	8	Assess areas for risks. Pupils reminded not to pick anything they can not 100% identify or eat anything/put hands near mouth. (Rule 2 No pick, no lick) Hand wash after session (during session if necessary) and prior to any eating. No collecting of mushrooms. Toxic plants identified on site inform SBM/SM – ensure all briefed about not touching plant. Remove if required.	Forest School Leader SBM/SM Other adults to support hand washing and reminders about safe foraging.
Insects	Stings/ bites Anaphylactic shock from insects.	All	2	5	10	Adults aware of specific allergies. First Aid trained staff knowledgeable in using Epi pens. Avoid areas with known wasp nests or beehives if they become apparent. Attendees increased knowledge of insects.	Forest School Leader Other staff trained to use Epi pens.
Plants Flowers	Scratches, stings allergic reactions, discomfort	All	2	3	6	Adults aware of allergies, knowledgeable about flora and fauna for site. Attendees briefed about safe collection and usage. Explain risk of stinging nettles and how to administer first aid to sting. Brief all about any areas of brambles, ivy, holly prior to use.	Forest School Leader
Fallen branches and twigs	Scratches, cuts, pierced skin	All	2	2	4	Attendees briefed on safe handling. All adults to remind children of safe handling during activities. Planned games to introduce safe handling of branches/twigs.	Forest School Leader Support staff

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Glass, brick, slabs and other sharps	Scratches, cuts, lacerations	All	2	4	8	Verbal brief prior to start of specific activities involving close contact with the ground, encourage development of self-risk assessment. Site checks completed each session. Have rubbish bag/gloves available, remove offensive material from site asap.	Forest Leader support staff.
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Risk / Benefit analysis

The following benefits have been identified for collecting and using natural materials:

- Knowledge and understanding of; fauna, flora including fungi.
- Knowledge of insects, creatures, animals and habitats.
- Woodland and forest safety – using and moving within the environment safely.
- Knowledge of safety around foraging.
- Knowledge of seasonal changes.
- Extending learning beyond FS setting i.e. using learnt knowledge when out with own family, passing on knowledge to others.
- Stress relieving - calming impact, connection to nature.
- Developing knowledge of how nature can be used.
- Appreciation/ value of the natural world and how to look after it. Conservation, sustainability.
- Impact of humans on the natural world.
- Health benefits – being in nature.

This risk assessment has been prepared for Forest School outdoor learning. The responsibilities stated are outlined for Go Wild Forest School sessions. During instances where class teachers use the schools outdoor areas, the responsibilities lie with qualified teaching staff and all risk assessments should be read and adhered to. All staff should be aware of personnel on site with up to date First Aid Training. Activities specific to Forest School, should **not** be carried out by non-qualified Forest School staff.

Prepared by –S. Hill – L3 Forest School Leader Agreed by L. Blanchenot (Head Teacher)

Written: September 2022.

Review Date: 5th Sept 2023.

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	Probability		Severity	Rating = probability x Severity	
1	Very unlikely	1	Attention needed/ TLC	1-2	Low risk – no further action required.
2	Unlikely	2	First Aid	3-5	Low priority - monitor risks, action as required
3	Possible	3	First Aid/ Send to doctor	6-9	Medium risk – attention required, examine practicality of change.
4	Likely	4	Call emergency services	10-15	A high priority for action.
5	Very likely	5	Multiple injuries/death	16-25	Requires immediate attention and action.