RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT – Shelter Building

**Low risk- Something resulting in a minor injury eg a scratch or a bruise**

**Medium risk- something resulting in significant loss/ damage or an injury such as a broken bone which requires hospital treatment**

**High risk- something that results in extensive loss/ damage, multiple injuries or death**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Location/ Activity: | Stoneydelph Forest School | Date: | December 2021 |
| FS Leader: | Mrs J Parry | Review Date: | December 2022 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | How will young people BENEFIT from the activity? | Possible Hazards | Overall risk ratings  Low/ Med/ High | Who is at risk? | Precautions in place to reduce risk of injury | Risk rating following precautions |
| Choosing a safe site | Giving children freedom to choose a site for shelter building gives them more ownership over the activity  Children have a chance to negotiate with their group | Dangers missed from initial safety sweep (in undergrowth for example)  Cuts/ grazes and abrasions from moving into deeper undergrowth | Medium | Children/ adults | FS Leader to complete additional safety sweep to look for hidden dangers  If the chosen area is within a bush or near low branches, verbally alert the children to potential danger | Low |
| Climbing on logs and stumps | Moving over and around forest features is an essential component of exploring such a habitat | Slips, trips and falls  Cuts, grazes, abrasions and bruises | Medium | Children/ adults | Adult modelling of how to rock a stump with your foot to see if it’s wobbly  Ensure sensible footwear is worn prior to sessions  Areas around logs and stumps kept clear of sharp objects  Vigilant adult supervision so that support can be offered where needed | Low |
| Transporting branches larger than their arm | Children love to climb trees, and move sticks etc. The movement of larger sticks will promote team work, discussion and enjoyment | Muscle strains  Slips, trips and falls  Cuts, grazes and abrasions | High | Children/ adults | Demonstrate safe transportation methods such as dragging  Vigilant adult supervision to ensure safe transportation  Teach children the rhyme: if it takes more than 1, it takes 2. If it takes more than 2, it takes 3. If it takes more than 3, it’s a tree- leave it be! | Medium |
| Moving of heavy logs | The lifting of heavier objects will help learners with strength and coordination and give opportunities to work independently and as part of a team | Muscle strains  Slips, trips and falls  Cuts, grazes and abrasions | High | Children/ adults | Model safe lifting with bent knees and straight backs when lifting (to adults and children)  Vigilant adult supervision when lifting  Clear walkways and equipment safely stored | Medium |
| Securing branches above head level | This should be encouraged in a safe, controlled manner, so that children have the enjoyment of being able to sit in their shelter | Falling branches  Cuts, grazes, scratches, abrasions and bruises | High | Children/ adults | Model safe lifting with adult support to safely support and secure branches above head height with paracord | Medium |
| Securing the shelter with paracord | Allowing the children to secure branches and tarps independently increases confidence and self esteem | Trips and falls  Strangulation with cord | High | Children/ adults | Demonstrate safe use of paracord  Vigilant supervision with cord  FS leader to collect in any cord not being used | Medium |

Format edited from: http://www.learningaway.org.uk