RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT – Campfire

**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 |

\*Fire safety kit and burns kit always close by during a fire

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | How will young people BENEFIT from the activity? | Possible Hazards | Overall risk ratingsLow/ Med/ High | Who is at risk? | Precautions in place to reduce risk of injury | Risk rating following precautions |
| Fire lighting using a fire steel | Use of a fire steel gives children opportunity to independently light small fires under very close adult supervision  | Small burnsScratches from the striking action | Medium | Children/ adults | Children will only be handed the fire steel when they are in a safe kneeling position at the side of the fire areaAdult to clearly model correct use of the fire steel, striking away from themselves, and when they have proved that they are competent / age/ stage etc | Low |
| Behaviour around the campfire | Sharing group time around the fire (however small) is an important experience during FS sessions, enhancing the feeling of inclusion | BurnsSerious injurySmoke inhalationDeath | High | Children/ adults | All students to follow the behaviour policyUnsafe behaviour will not be allowed around the campfire. If children continue to demonstrate unsafe behaviour, they will be removed from the campfire areaChildren to be reminded to never walk through the fire pit area, regardless of whether the fire is lit- always walk around the edge of the seating | Medium |
| Long hair / unsuitable clothing | Sharing group time around the fire (however small) is an important experience during FS sessions, enhancing the feeling of inclusion | Clothing/ hair catching alightBurnsSerious injuryDeath | High | Children/ adults | The adult will continually check the children are appropriately distanced from the fireThe fire kit will be in situ at the fire area at all times when the fire is litLong hair tied backAny clothes such as scarves etc should be tucked in or removed before entering the fire squareNo synthetic gloves will be worn when a fire is lit | Medium |
| Smoke | As above | Smoke inhalation and irritation of the airways | High | Children/ adults | Position fire away from buildingsWind direction constantly assessed and children advised to move out of the way the smoke is blowingDry suitable wood used to prevent excess smoke | Medium |
| Water boiling  | Boiling own water to make their own hot drink will give the children a great sense of achievement | Boiling water bubbling out and causing scaled and burns | High | Children/ Adults | Kettle to face the opposite way to the air ventOne child will be watching from a distance for bubbles starting in the water/ the kettle rockingThe fire square rules to be followed by all | Medium |
| Hot embers | The group need to understand the method for safely putting out and dispersing evidence of their fire | Burns from embers or metalSmoke inhalation | Medium | Children/ adults | When putting out the fire, encourage children to ‘paint it black’, ensuring any white hot embers are doused in waterAfter a specified period of time (depending on the size of the fire), the FS leader will ensure the embers are completely cool and direct the children to spread them appropriately according to the fire procedure | Low |
| Fire spreading out of control | Sharing group time around the fire (however small) is an important experience during FS sessions, enhancing the feeling of inclusion | The fire could spread beyond the perimeter of the fire square safety boundary. If not controlled, this could have a dramatic effect and cause major damage or injury | High  | Children/ adults/ local environment | The fire will always be under supervision with control measures and equipment at handDuring summer months, the fire will be off the ground, in a suitable location, away from long grassMoistening of the wooden surround and ground should be considered on dry days when lighting directly on the groundThe fire control centre will have been informed of the fire as part of the fire procedure, and will inform the FS leader if it is not considered appropriate to hold a fire that day | Medium |
| Falls onto fire | Sharing group time around the fire (however small) is an important experience during FS sessions, enhancing the feeling of inclusion | Scalds, burns, loss of life | High | Children/ adults | Children to be made aware of rules of fire square, even when a fire isn’t litVigilant adult supervision around the fire at all timesAll trip hazards to be removed from near the fire | Medium |
| Heat from fire | Sharing group time around the fire (however small) is an important experience during FS sessions, enhancing the feeling of inclusion | Reddening of skin from close proximity to the fireClothing catching alight | Medium | Children/ adults | The adult will continually check the children are appropriately distanced from the fireAny reddening of the skin will be treated as a minor burnThe fire kit will be in situ at the fire area at all times when the fire is lit | Low |

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