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| **Hazard** | **Benefits** | **Risks** | **Safety Measures** |
| Trip hazards such as uneven ground, muddy surfaces, natural hazards and logs | Negotiating the terrain means that children become more aware of their surroundings. Core strength and coordination is improved | Slips, trips and falls which could cause injuries such as cuts, abrasions, bruises, breaks etc | Instructions to walk carefully/ check where you’re walkingAll learners to always wear appropriate footwearRemove obvious trip hazards during pre session site checkEncourage children to put things they aren’t using away to reduce trip hazards |
| Low branches, causing scratches and eye injuries | Aware of surroundingsTrees provide leavesLow branches provide good places to climb/ areas for rope swings etc | Scratches and abrasionsBruises and bumps | Point out the location of low branches to the childrenCut back branches where needed |
| Biting and stinging insects | Insects improve biodiversityChildren are fascinated by themOpportunity for children to become more able to tolerate and learn about a variety of insects | Stings/ bites/ irritation of skinAllergic reaction to stings | Warn children not to disturb or try to catch bees/ wasps etcMonitor site for nests/ activity, and avoid those sitesAppropriate clothing to cover arms and legsCheck for allergies and ensure epi-pen is present and adults know how to use it |
| Brambles/ thorns and stinging nettles | Biodiversity and good identification of a range of flora and faunaNettles can be used in a variety of ways | Stings, scratches and splinters | Show children location of any of these plants, explain what may happen if they come into contact with themFirst aid provided where necessary |
| Poisonous/ toxic plants and fungi | Increased awareness and knowledge about a range of plants | Illness/ poisoningReactions to skin | Ensure hands are always washed at the end of the session or before eating/ drinkingChildren reminded to never eat anything they find on site unless provided by FS Leader, and educated about the fact that some things are poisonousIrritated skin to be treated by First AiderAdult aware of the area and of anything toxic |
| Ticks | Biodiversity- ticks can live on a range of animals | Illness- flu like symptoms can signal Lyme Disease | If aware of ticks on the site, inform children of what to doLeaflets home where appropriate |
| Harmful litter eg. Metal, glass, hypodermic needles | Children to build up an awareness of potential dangersChildren to help with general litter picking, giving them ownership of their site | Cuts, scratches, infections from needles | Remove any harmful litter on pre session site checkEducate children to different types of litter, especially those that could cause harm |
| Exposure to the elements- Rain, wind, snow, ice and sun | Children learn to deal with, and work in a variety of different weather types, and are aware of what they need to minimise the effects of the elements. Learning about seasons | Hypothermia Heat/ sun strokeFalling branches/ debris in the windSlippery conditions during snow and ice | Ensure that all children are wearing clothes appropriate to the type of weather and the seasonLong sleeves and trousers worn where possibleSun screen applied when requiredUse canopies and tarpaulins as protection where it is safe to do soEnsure children are hydratedIn extreme cases work indoors and have an alternative |
| Animal faeces  | Identification of animals by looking at their pooA good basis for learning conversations and information sharing | Children to stand in/ touch/ pick up faecesIllness to occur as a result | Look for faeces during pre session site check and remove where possibleChildren to wash hands if they come into contact with faecesPoint out location of faeces during session so it can be avoided |
| Structural damage to trees | Trees provide places to climb, improving spatial awareness and core strength and confidenceopportunities for discussion about trees and how to look after them | Bruising from falling branches etc Trips and falls | Check branches and trees during pre session site checkIf there is any substantial damage to trees, work away from them- on school fieldEnsure Blooming Gardens are regularly on site and check tree health |