

# Lucy's Little Forest School Wilderness Wood Risk Assessment



<b>Date:</b> Jan 2020 onwards review date Jan 2021		<b>Event Description:</b> Shelter and Survival Activities		<b>Grid Ref:</b> Wilderness Woods TV535 240		
<b>Specific Location:</b> Shelter and Survival Activity Site				<b>Assessed by:</b> Michaela Barkaway		
Activity/ Operation	Specific Hazard(s)	Whom affected Characteristic that would put person at risk	Control Measures(s) Comment	Risk Level		
				L	S	R
Weather	Hypothermia/ sunburn	Group and Leader	The group will have been advised to bring appropriate clothing on consent forms, booking info information and or pre visit. The leader needs to check weather forecasts and ensure group has appropriate clothing for the weather on the day.	1	3	3
Woodland site	Slips trips falls bangs Woodland site specific risk assessment completed. Woodland team to access woods using vehicles.	Group and Leader	The group will be made aware of aspects highlighted in the woodlands site risk assessment in safety talk on arrival. The leader will ensure that the woodlands risk assessment is used on site. Leader to put up barrier to wood yard and to the lower area of the woods near F post on alphabet trail when area in use by groups.	1	3	3

Fire Building	Burns	Group and Leader	<p>Use Fire Craft Risk assessment in conjunction with this activity if fires are used.</p> <p>Have created Fire pits with room to move around the outside of the fire square and have seating 1.5 metres for inside fire pit. Instruction given how to move around the fire square and avoid smoke. Keep fire area clear of branches + dead leaves. Always have an adult supervising the fire(s). Tell children they must obey adults near fires – no running etc. No walking within seating circle. No lighted sticks to be removed from fire. If windy, no seated children on downwind side. Children to be <u>seated</u> around fire, on fixed log seating. Don't throw sticks into fire – can knock out burning pieces</p>	1	3	3
Fire trace and woodland respect	Woodland fire, damage to trees	Woodland	<p>Locate fire where it will not damage trees. Re-use old fire site if possible. Clear dead leaves from 6ft radius. Extinguish fire with water.</p>	1	3	3
Eating cooked Food	Burns	Group and Leader	<p>Warn children to let food cool before eating, especially marshmallows, + handle carefully. Tell children not to wave around hot food. Warn children to beware of melted marshmallows + supervise carefully.</p>	2	2	4

Cutting rope/string with penknife	Cuts	Group and Leader	Penknives only used by adults, or children if permission of their adult + under adult supervision.	1	3	3
Shelter Building	Bangs to head, body	Group and Leader	Ensure the site is clear of all built shelters – demolish and collect y’s ready for group and prep demonstration area. Do not allow children to demolish their shelters at the end. Check structure of new shelters is sound. Do not allow heavy poles in structure, especially roof. Warn of trip hazards from roots, branches, stumps, slippery ground and how to carry to minimise bumping into others.	1	3	3
Lifting materials	Back injury muscle strain injury. Lifting procedures implemented	Group and Leader	The group will need to practice and understand lifting procedures where required – give carrying demo and how to carry with someone else.	1	3	3
Fungus	Poison	Group and Leader	Groups are given a safety talk on arrival to not touch as some are poisonous.	1	3	3
Brambles	Cuts and scratches from brambles	Group and Leader	Warn of brambles and branches. Remove them from ground near story area and route.	1	3	3
Insects and plants	Stung - anaphylactic shock allergies. Avoid areas that contain stinging plants and insects.	Group and Leader	Leader to explain what plants and insects may sting and avoid areas containing them	1	3	3
Litter and debris	Cutting hand - The area has been risk assessed	Group and Leader	Ensure the group are aware of potential hazards and investigate areas carefully if	2	2	4

	considering occurrence of litter		any litter is observed. The leader should be informed and the group are told not to touch. Site check before visit.			
Uneven ground	Trip slip fall. activity has its own risk assessment which considers trips and slips	Group and Leader	Ensure the group are told to watch out for trip/slips hazards before activity commences - Leader makes aware in health and safety talk at arrival. Explain to the group how to move safely not running or pushing and looking out for hazards, roots etc	2	2	4
Low branches and trees	Banging head poking eyes. Areas are chosen to avoid sites with eye height branches. Safety goggles can be worn	Group and Leader	Ensure the group are aware of any dangers these hazards may pose - issues raised in health and safety talk on arrival. Make sure the group move carefully around the wood without moving quickly	2	2	4
Carrying sticks and poles	Banging head poking eyes	Group and Leader	Show children how to carry sticks or poles safely, No running. Warn children to watch for other people when moving poles.	2	2	4
Collecting bracken	Cuts from collecting bracken	Group and Leader	Only adults allowed to break up bracken, and leader shows how to do safely.	1	2	2
Dog faeces	Infection and disease - areas with a high number of dog walkers should be avoided	Group and Leader	Ensure the group are aware of this potential problem. Leaders to carry antibacterial wipes in case of contact with animal faeces. Also to carry pooh bags to remove site check before visit.	2	2	4

Encountering other site users	Stranger danger, fear of dogs	Group and Leader	Ensure participants are aware of other members of the public using site and with dogs perhaps. Not to approach dogs and stand still if approached. Visiting group under watch of adult leaders as well as teacher and Lucy's Little Forest school Leader.	2	2	4
Pond	Falling in, drowning	Group and Leader	Make group aware of the pond before we arrive, ask children to walk carefully and slowly around the pond.	1	3	3
Group staying together	Lost Children	Children	Do not allow children to go out of sight without adult supervision. Count children in group + count at end – ensure all children reach yard with adult. Inform carers/children their collection point is behind barn. Stop before reaching yard to count & group children.	1	3	3
<b>Nearest Phone:</b> Leader's mobile phone Wriggly 07949672141 Lucy 07766 486548 Mel 07588 604622 Julie 07961971646 or cafe 01825 830509			<b>First Aid Box Location:</b> Lucy's Little Forest School Team leader's rucksack			
<b>Nearest Hospital:</b> Princess Royal Hospital Haywards Heath: 01444 441881 <b>Nearest Defibrillator:</b> Hadlow Down Village hall - 999 call request code for machine			<b>First Aider:</b> Michaela Barkaway, Lucy Clark			

**Ambulance Meeting Point:** Main Car Park Wilderness Woods by cafe. Request 4x4 for woodland access

**First Aid Contingency:** 999

**Additional Controls Needed/ Further Preventative Measures:** Schools – Recommended OFSTED child ratio for school visits. Activities/events- Children supervised by accompanying adult at all times. No child to be left with LLFS Leader.

Birthday parties – Parent/carer running party to have responsibility of children. Lucy's Little Forest School team will run the party and be in charge of all activities we do in the time allocated. Tell children/adults that risky activity, therefore must do as adults tell them. Stop the activity if children persistently behave dangerously. Water for burns, burns kit. Minimum 3 adult supervisors (i.e. WW + 2)

Know your allotted helpers and make sure they know they are expected to help. Use your adult helpers e.g. to supervise fires. Make sure adults are listening to your safety talk(s)

Schools and groups are only covered by Lucy's Little Forest School insurance and Health and safety procedures while attending a session led by a Lucy's Little Forest school leader - while at lunch, self led activities, lunch, play - non led by Lucy's Little Forest school the group must ensure they have relevant risk assessment and have conducted a pre visit check.

**Discussed with owner/manager/host of site : Yes**

**Discussed 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability with host : Yes**

**(L) LIKELIHOOD**

- 1 Hazard exists very infrequently; limited numbers exposed
- 2 Likely to occur; hazard exists intermittently or occurs occasionally
- 3 Likely to occur soon; permanent hazard or occurs daily/repeatedly; many may be exposed

**(S) SEVERITY OF HAZARD**

- 1 Could cause minor injury only
- 2 Could cause major injury/3 day or more absence
- 3 Could cause a fatality/severe injury

**(R) RISK LEVEL** is the product of Likelihood and Severity (L x S)

- Very High Risk score 6 or 9 (Activity not to commence)
- Moderate Risk score 3 or 4 (Additional control measures)
- Low Priority Risk score 1 or 2

**VERY HIGH RISK SCORES (6 TO 9) NEED ADDITIONAL ACTION. ACTIVITY MUST NOT COMMENCE**