



The Wild Wood at The Spinney - Risk Management Plan

<p>Summary description of location</p>	<p>The Wild Wood is situated adjacent to the field of The Spinney Primary School and can be accessed across the path next to the school field. The area is grass, trees, brambles and small clumps of woodland. There is a large pond with an open fence around.</p> <p>The surrounding area is housing to one side, the school meadow to the other and more natural space to the other. There are access roads.</p>
<p>Competences of Teachers</p>	<p>Teachers and TAs have visited the site and walked the area together with CCI staff. Dangers have been identified and strategies for the management of the project discussed. A home base for the project has been decided and CCI staff have shared their experiences about how the children's behaviour may develop over the course of the project. Teachers' experience will develop over the course of the project and they are experienced in managing the behaviour of a large class of children. The teachers are familiar with the behaviours of individual children.</p>
<p>Competences of the children (including any children with SEN/disabilities)</p>	<p>For most of the children the woodland will be a new experience.</p> <p>The children's knowledge and competence, like that of the teachers, increases as they spend time at the area, in different places, weather conditions, and times of year. This is an important part of the motivation for the project.</p> <p>They are made aware from the beginning of some basic ground rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not going further than the agreed area/distance along the path • Not eating anything from the woods • Not handling any rubbish e.g. broken glass, metal, plastic without awareness of teachers <p>The children's physical competence, confidence, and knowledge is reviewed as the project progresses, and assessments of risk adapted accordingly.</p>



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<i>The Activity or occupation</i>	<i>What risks to health and/or safety exist?</i>	<i>Who is at risk?</i>	<i>Precautions already taken</i>	<i>Risk level</i>	<i>Are any additional measures necessary, any measures to be removed or revised (as the project progresses)?</i>
Walking through the Woodland exploring the woods and grassy areas	Uneven ground, slippery mud, wet leaves, holes in ground	Slight risk to all: trips/slips, cuts, grazes, twisted ankles etc.	Ongoing assessment of ground conditions by teachers. Children made aware of any tricky conditions, and if necessary helped through them.	2	These are all natural features of a woodland environment, to be learnt about during our time there. As children's competence increases through familiarity, the risks are negotiated skilfully and children will become largely able to assess conditions for themselves.
	Loss of contact with group	Risk to children: disorientation, getting into unfamiliar situations or places.	Children are told what to do if they get separated from the group (stay where they are and call the teacher's name loudly). Dialogue with children to affirm area for exploration and physical limits to this area. Agreed stopping points on the paths. Teachers regularly check all children are present, especially in areas of lower visibility	3	Children's competence increases as they get to know the reserve. The dynamic of the group also helps keep contact. Children who find keeping within the agreed area difficult are supervised more closely until they can manage.



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	Inappropriate use of natural materials (sticks, stones)	Risk to children: injuries, cuts, bruises	Children supervised and encouraged to play co-operatively and responsibly. Dialogue about safe carrying of sticks.	2	
	Poisonous plants, mushrooms, berries	Risk to children: poisoning/allergic reactions	Children made aware not to touch plants, eat or put into mouth anything from the woods. All children and adults wash hands before eating or handling food.	3	Teachers will visit the reserve for a risk assessment to look for plant hazards.
	Fox faeces	Risk to children: infection	Site checked by teachers and hazards pointed out	1	
Climbing trees	Rotten branches, children's climbing competence	Risk to children: falling from tree, cuts, bruises, broken bones	Children supervised when climbing. Ongoing dialogue with children about competent climbing. Trees checked for safety of branches.	3	Children's physical development and competence grow rapidly in the woods. As they spend more time there, they will need less direct supervision. Checks on trees etc remain the same.



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Brambles and nettles	Prickles and scratches from brambles, stings from nettles	Risk to children and adults from brambles and/or nettles	Children will be supervised and encouraged to look carefully at their environment. Adults will talk about brambles etc before going to the reserve. First aid kits will be taken.	2	Children will become more familiar with the features of the plants.
Pond Water	Drowning	Risk to children and adults: drowning	The children will learn about water hazards. The area is cordoned off with a roped boundary 1 metre away from the pond edge. Pupils will be supervised.	4	This risk will remain constant and be supervised for every visit.
Other? First Aid	Inhaler usage Risk of burns		T/A to carry inhaler First aid kit to be carried by TA, including large bottle of water and ice pack in case of burns.		



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Building a fire and burning materials	<p>Burns</p> <p>Spreading out of control</p>	<p>Children and adults</p> <p>Children, adults and environment</p>	<p>Fire only to be made in fire bowl.</p> <p>Fire bucket of water kept nearby.</p> <p>All adults to be carefully briefed about activity and careful supervision of children. A ratio of 1-6 to be maintained at all times.</p> <p>Children carefully briefed about activity and rules. Instructed to stay seated in circle at safe distance from fire unless told otherwise. Not to approach fire unless accompanied by an adult.</p> <p>If children need to leave the circle, they walk around the outside, not the inside of the circle.</p>	4	This risk is only present for this activity.



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	Smoke inhalation		<p>All materials checked by Spinney staff to ensure they are safe to place on fire before burning.</p> <p>Fire to be fully extinguished by adult before leaving site. Ensure no burning materials / embers are left on ground.</p> <p>Children instructed not to touch fire bowl or contents even after fire is extinguished.</p> <p>Assess direction of wind and avoid seating children and adults in path of smoke. Children and adults instructed to move around outside of circle to new seating position, if smoke is causing discomfort.</p>		