

Lineham Farm Children's Centre – Activity Risk Assessment

Activity: Nature Explorers

Location: Centre Grounds

Hazard	F	S	R	Action Taken	F	S	R
Bird Watching: Binoculars/Sun	2	3	6	Discuss risks of magnifying the sun. Warn about danger of doing this – make sure binoculars are not pointed at the sun. Supervise use. Ensure viewing through binoculars is only carried out when person is stationary.	1	3	3
Allergy	1	5	5	Check for allergies before session. If anyone has peanut allergy, do not fill bird feeders in session. If allergy severe, do not work near filling area of greenhouse.	1	5	5
Gardening: Tools	3	3	9	Warn of danger, careful instruction of use and transport. Use tools of correct size/design for appropriate task. Work steadily/carefully. Ensure suitable working distances between workers (1-2 tools lengths)	1	2	2
Tripping, Falling	4	2	8	No running. Warn of dangers. Remove any tripping hazards before sessions. Ensure any walking surfaces have adequate friction. Keep work areas tidy/orderly.	1	1	1
Infection/ Contamination	1	5	5	Warn of danger. Wear gloves to minimise contact with animal waste and wash hands before eating and showering.	1	5	5
Eye damage	1	3	3	Ensure any canes/sticks or garden furniture are not at children's eye level or place protectors (eg plastic bottles) over short canes.	1	3	3
Poisoning	2	5	10	Reinforce "no-eating" rule, warn of particular plants.	1	5	5
Greenhouse Door	3	3	9	Greenhouse door can blow in strong winds and trap fingers. Ensure it is on the catch or an adult to open and close door.	1	3	3
Pond Dipping: Infection / contamination	1	5	5	No hands to be put in the water. Anyone with cuts or open wounds esp. on hands to cover it with a plaster or plastic gloves. No one to put hands anywhere near face, eyes or mouth. Ensure hands are washed on return to centre.	1	2	2
Tripping on dipping	3	3	9	Check dipping platform beforehand and	1	3	3

platform, falling into water				remove loose debris and trip hazards. Approach edge of dipping platform in careful and controlled manner. ALL children to sit as instructed during the activity.			
Damage to eyes	1	3	3	No flicking of pond water. Warn of danger of eye-poke hazard with net and supervise closely. Only 1 net to be used at any one time – instruct in safe use.	1	3	3
Water Insect bites	1	2	1	No one to touch invertebrates in the tray. Use plastic spoons to transfer invertebrates to viewing pots.	1	1	1
Woodland Walk:							
Tripping/falling	4	3	12	Check areas to be used beforehand. Remove/make safe hazards. Limit to areas where falling is safer i.e. no surface rocks or exposed tree roots.	2	2	4
Branches/twigs in eye	3	3	9	No carrying sticks, discuss risks beforehand. Stay in areas where risk is low i.e. few low branches. Remove hazards as arising.	1	3	3
Poisonous Plants/ Fungi and Infection	2	5	10	Discuss risks of this and establish “no eating” rule in woodland. Ensure hands are washed on return to centre.	1	5	5
Wandering near water/deep mud	2	5	10	Be familiar with area, know safe parts and hazards, supervise group closely and warn of dangers.	1	1	1
Dens built by other groups	3	3	9	Groups not to go into dens/shelters built by other groups	1	1	1
General:							
Participants’ known medical condition, e.g.asthma, hay fever, allergy	2	5	10	Check medical forms, relevant preventative medication to be taken before session, reliever medication to be carried at all times, e.g. asthma inhalers, epipen	2	1	2
Weather conditions	2	2	4	Ensure suitable clothing worn, provide waterproofs / sun block / hats as appropriate. Be prepared to abandon activity if appropriate.	1	1	1
Lightning	1	5	5	See Risk Assessment 36 - Lightning	1	4	4
Strong Winds	3	5	15	Check woodland areas for unsafe trees or branches. Assess wind strength and if in the region of 35mph or more, avoid woodland areas.	1	5	5

Maximum Supervision Ratio: 1: 16 plus assistant (eg visiting staff)
1: 8 If gardening and using tools

First Aid Kit Carried? Yes
Supervisor Qualification: No

Essential Safety Equipment: Gloves for gardening, throwing line adjacent to wetland areas.

Other Comments: Leader to carry a mobile phone. Staff to check woodland after high winds.

Manager Approval: T. Glindon

Reviewed 18/09/18 Jo Weston

Reviewed 04/10/19 T. Glindon

Review date (12 months or following any significant change or an incident)