

Hazard	Risks	Who May Be Harmed	Control Measures	Risk Level
Wild plants, flowers and fungi	Poisoning, skin irritation, allergic reactions	Children, staff, volunteers	Children taught not to eat any plant, berry, seed, fungus or flower unless specifically identified by Forest School Leader. Regular site checks. Hand washing before eating.	Medium
Berries and fruits	Ingestion of toxic berries	Children	Clear rule: "No picking or eating without adult permission." Identify and remove accessible toxic species where practical.	Medium
Thorny bushes (brambles, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, rose)	Scratches, puncture wounds, eye injuries	Children, staff	Appropriate clothing. Safety briefing. Encourage awareness when moving through vegetation. First aid kit available.	Low
Trees and climbing	Falls, slips, collisions, falling from height	Children	Tree climbing rules agreed. Adult supervision. Children assess branches before climbing. Height limits determined by leader.	Medium
Falling branches and deadwood	Head injuries, cuts, fractures	Children, staff	Regular tree inspections. Avoid use during high winds. Remove obvious hazards where safe. Dynamic assessment before every session.	Medium
Uneven ground, roots, holes and slopes	Trips, slips, falls	Children, staff, volunteers	Site walk before sessions. Suitable footwear. Clear boundaries and reminders to walk safely.	Medium
Loose branches and sticks	Cuts, eye injuries, trips	Children	Teach safe carrying of sticks. Establish "blood bubble" rule. Remove dangerous debris where practical.	Medium
Weather (wind, rain, ice, heat)	Hypothermia, sunburn, dehydration, falling branches	Everyone	Monitor forecasts. Appropriate clothing. Water available. Suspend sessions during severe weather.	Medium
Fire circle and campfire activities	Burns, smoke inhalation, clothing ignition	Children, staff	Fire safety rules taught. Designated fire area. Adult supervision at all times. Fire blanket, water and first aid available. Safe seating distance maintained.	High

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Fire lighting equipment	Burns, misuse	Children	Only used under direct supervision. Stored securely when not in use.	Medium
Hand tools (peelers, potato peelers, palm drills)	Cuts and puncture wounds	Children, staff	Tool safety training. One-to-one supervision where required. Tools counted in and out. Safe working zones established.	Medium
Cutting tools (secateurs, loppers, saws)	Serious cuts and injuries	Children, staff	Age-appropriate use. Safety instruction provided. Protective positioning taught. Close supervision.	High
Rope activities and den building	Entanglement, trips, collapse of structures	Children	Safe knot instruction. Dens checked by adults. No rope left unattended.	Medium
Insect bites and stings	Allergic reactions, discomfort	Children, staff	Site awareness. Avoid disturbing nests. Medical information available. First aid provision. Emergency medication accessible.	Medium
Wasps, bees and hornets	Anaphylaxis	Children, staff	Known allergies identified. EpiPens available where prescribed. Emergency procedures known by staff.	High
Ticks	Lyme disease risk	Children, staff	Long trousers encouraged. Tick checks recommended after sessions. Staff trained in removal procedures.	Medium
Animal faeces	Infection, illness	Children	Site checks before sessions. Hand hygiene procedures. Avoid contaminated areas.	Medium
Child behaviour	Injury to self or others	Children, staff	Clear Forest School rules and expectations. Appropriate supervision ratios. Positive behaviour management strategies.	Medium
Throwing sticks or objects	Impact injuries	Children	Strict stick safety rules. Immediate intervention where unsafe behaviour occurs.	Medium
Allergies (food, plants, insects)	Allergic reactions	Children, staff	Medical information collected and reviewed. Emergency medication accessible. Staff aware of individual needs.	High

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Medical conditions (asthma, diabetes, epilepsy etc.)	Medical emergency	Relevant individuals	Individual healthcare plans followed. Medication available and staff trained. Mobile phone carried.	High
Water hazards (if applicable)	Slips, drowning	Children	Clear boundaries. Enhanced supervision. Risk assessed separately if necessary.	High
Stranger danger/public access	Safeguarding concerns	Children	Defined boundaries. Appropriate supervision. Visitors challenged appropriately. School safeguarding procedures followed.	Medium
Getting lost or straying from site	Missing child	Children	Clear physical boundaries. Head counts before, during and after activities. Staff positioned strategically. Whistle signal taught and practised. Emergency missing child procedure in place.	High
Transport to/from site (if applicable)	Road traffic accidents	Children, staff	Appropriate supervision ratios. Road safety procedures followed.	Medium
Wild sweet peas and other legume plants	Poisoning if seeds, pods or plant material are eaten; allergic reactions; skin irritation in sensitive individuals	Children, staff, volunteers	Children instructed never to eat any wild plants, flowers, seeds or pods. Site checks carried out to identify areas where wild sweet peas are growing. Adult supervision maintained. Hand washing before eating and after outdoor activities. First aid procedures in place.	Medium