



Woodventurers Risk Assessment Policy

Woodland Learning sessions aim to develop children's self esteem, independence and motivation and this involves exposure to risky activities. We are committed to providing a safe learning environment and do our utmost to make it 'safe enough' so as not to do harm but give children the benefits that come from engaging in risky activities.

To ensure we effectively manage risk Woodventurers will:

- Risk assess every site where Woodland Learning activities will take place.
- Risk assess each activity and ensure staff/volunteers work in line with the safety measures in place and follow the relevant procedures as noted in the RA document (specifically tools and fire)
- Train staff in how to effectively manage risk through training and CPD as appropriate.
- Ensure staff carry out pre-session checks prior to a woodland learning session as near to the start of the session as is reasonably practical.
- To meet our duty of care to those attending Woodland Learning sessions, when engaging in bushcraft activities, we will ensure all staff and volunteers follow the correct procedures for the use of tools and fire. To view these procedures visit www.woodventurers.co.uk (hard copy on request)

The Woodland Tutors will:

- Have read and understood the appropriate Risk Assessment document prior to the session and be clear on the safety measures in place.
- Carry out pre-session checks prior to a woodland learning session as near to the start of the session as is reasonably practical.
- Note risks related to a specific activity on the appropriate session plan and if necessary, add to the risk assessment.
- Be constantly vigilant during session to any new hazards, act immediately on any hazards to make them 'safe enough' and add these to RA document.
- Notify Woodventurers SLT of any additions/amendments to the RA document with details of the hazards identified and new safety measures put in place.
- During sessions, ensure safety measures and relevant procedures are followed at all times by adults and children attending Woodland Learning sessions.
- Demonstrate to staff, volunteers and children of potential hazards and safe methods of working in order to minimise their risk further.
- Ensure children/staff/volunteers follow these procedures and adults model correct procedures at all times.
- If appropriate, involve children in risk assessment process as part of learning.
- Be responsible for teaching children adequate skills in order to keep themselves safe, particularly in relation to the use of hand tools and fire.

When writing Risk Assessment documents Woodventurers consistently apply the five-step HSE (Health and Safety Executive) approach to risk assessment for all sites and activities used during a Woodland Learning session:

1. Look for hazards
2. Decide who may be harmed and how
3. Evaluate the risks and decide whether existing controls are adequate or whether more should be done.
4. Record findings, including amendments to standing risk assessments based on site visits or observations.
5. Review assessments on a regular basis (or if circumstances change which may affect the rigour of the assessment) and revise if necessary

Reviewed March 2020 by Toni Rogers

Next review date March 2021