



## **Risk Assessment Policy**

Woodventurers Woodland Learning 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 cause harm but give children the benefits that come from engaging in risky activities.

To ensure we effectively manage risk, Woodventurers Woodland Learning will:

- Rigorously risk assess every site where Woodland Learning and Forest School activities are to take place.
- Risk assess each activity and ensure staff/volunteers implement the relevant measures/procedures as noted in the site Risk Assessment document.
- 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.
- Recognise risk assessment is a continuous dynamic process and ensure risk assessments are regularly reviewed and updated by staff.
- Meet our duty of care to those attending Woodland Learning sessions when engaging in risky activities by ensuring all staff and volunteers are aware of the correct procedures and safety measures in place.

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 with ongoing risk assessment during sessions.
- If any new hazards arise, implement safety measures immediately to ensure the site and activities remain 'safe enough' during sessions and for futures sessions.
- Add any new hazards and subsequent control measures to the RA documents.
- Any additions/amendments to the RA document with details of the hazards identified and new safety measures must be shared with SLT.
- 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 further minimise risk.
- 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 Woodland Learning staff consistently apply the five-step HSE (Health and Safety Executive) approach to risk assessment for all sites and activities used during sessions:

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

Covid - 19

Woodventurers Woodland Learning will adhere to all government guidelines when carrying out Covid-19 risk assessments. All legally required safety measures will be in place including the correct use of PPE, hand hygiene, regularly cleaning equipment, reducing touch points, not sharing equipment and social distancing. These safety measures designed to protect our staff, volunteers and students will continue to be in place until government guidance dictates otherwise. In addition, easing of covid safety measures will be assessed on an individual basis by Woodventurers Woodland Learning in liaison with the commissioning settings.

Reviewed February 2022 by Toni Rogers

Next review date February 2023