

Branton Community First School
and
Breamish Valley Community Nursery



Branton Forest School

Risk Assessments

Site

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing preventative measures	Probability (P) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Rating (PXS) 1-25	What measures need to be taken?	Who? When?	Benefits
1	Broken fences and boundaries	Cuts, tripping, entrapment	Leaders, helpers and group	Check boundaries and alert group and helpers of any dangers	1	2	2	Alert group of dangers and move safely around them	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn to self-risk assess and avoid danger
2	Low branches	Cuts, branches in eyes/faces, banging head	Leaders, helpers and group	'Danger Detectives' discussion at the start of each session	2	2	4	Make group aware of low branches and how to avoid them	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn to self-risk assess and avoid danger
3	Dead trees and branches	Impact, crushing, tripping	Leaders, helpers and group	Dead trees have been felled and cleared, 'Danger Detectives' discussion at the start of each session	2	5	10	Continue to assess site for dead trees and branches to be removed	Leader Continuous Before and during sessions	Group learn to self-risk assess and avoid danger
4	Dogs	Attacks, faeces	Leaders, helpers and group	Group to stay within boundaries and alert adults of any dogs on the site, 'Danger Detectives' discussion at the start of each session	1	3	3	Adults to observe site during sessions, ensure group know what to do if dogs come on the site	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn to self-risk assess and avoid danger
5	Members of the public	Interference, abduction, attack	Leaders, helpers and group	Group to stay within boundaries and alert adults of any strangers on the site, 'Danger Detectives' discussion at the start of each session	1	5	5	Correct ratios of adults at all times, ensure group know not to talk to strangers on the public footpath outside the site	Leader and helpers Before and during sessions	Group learn to self-risk assess and avoid danger

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6	Pond	Drowning	Leaders, helpers and group	Group not to go near the pond without at least 2 adults present, 'Danger Detectives' discussion at the start of each session, life saving ring at pond at all times	1	5	5	Sessions near pond to be thoroughly planned and risk assessed in advance, life saving ring to be used if necessary	Leader and helpers Before and during sessions	Group learn to self-risk assess and avoid danger
7	Adders	Poisonous bites	Leaders, helpers and group	'Danger Detectives' discussion at the start of each session, "Adder or stick? If in doubt give a shout!" Leader to assess area before each session	3	5	15	In warmer, sunny months group is made aware that adders are likely to be basking in the sun, ensure they know to stay away and tell the leader if they see one, group to stay in shady areas on very sunny days	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn to identify and respect adders, to self-risk assess and to keep safe

Weather and General Welfare

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing preventative measures	Probability (P) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Rating (PXS) 1-25	What measures need to be taken?	Who? When?	Benefits
1	Weather	Getting too hot or cold	Leaders, helpers and group	Leaders to check weather forecast before session and make decisions based on that knowledge	1	1	1	Make decision on weather and explain to the group	Leader At the beginning of or during session	Group learn how to dress appropriately for the weather and enjoy all weather
2	High winds	Hit in the head by branches, minor injuries from being knocked over	Leaders, helpers and group	Group will not go to Forest School site if wind is too strong	1	5	5	Make decision on high winds and explain to the group	Leader At the beginning of or during session	Group learn how to keep safe in bad weather and enjoy all weather
3	Sun	Sunburn and sun stroke	Leaders, helpers and group	Suitable headwear, sun cream and water	1	2	2	Ensure all group wear sun protection. Reapply when necessary. Keep hydrated.	Leader At the beginning of or during session	Group learn how to protect themselves from the sun and enjoy all weather
4	Inappropriate footwear and clothing	Getting too hot or cold, getting wet, hurting feet, not protected from woodland environment	Leaders, helpers and group	Clothing lists given to parents, group reminded the day before a session, group loaned clothing if necessary	2	4	8	Ensure all group are wearing appropriate clothing. Session to be abandoned in issue cannot be solved.	Leader At the beginning of session	Group learn to equip themselves appropriately for activities

5	General health and welfare	Getting hungry, thirsty or hurt due to not following rules	Leaders, helpers and group	Leaders to provide advice, group management and to provide regular food and drink breaks	1	2	2	Ensure medical info re: food/drink allergies correctly identified	Leader At the beginning of or during session	Group learn to keep themselves well fed and hydrated, and to regulate behaviour
6	Medical problem	Illness due to allergies/medical issues	Leaders, helpers and group	The Leader ensures that they are aware of any allergies/medical issues	2	5	10	Ensure information is available for each session	Leader At the beginning of session	Everyone can take part regardless of medical issues
7	Accident or health problem occurring	Major or minor injuries or health issues	Leaders, helpers and group	Leader is trained in Outdoor Paediatric First Aid, helpers have Paediatric First Aid, First Aid Kits on site. Leaders use radio to contact staff at the school or mobile phones to contact emergency services. Leaders carry medical information on visit forms.	2	5	10	The Leader will take control of any accident/health situations	Leader or any other First Aider on site During a session	Group learn about how to keep safe on site and that help is available if there's a problem
8	Hot food and drink	Minor burns	Leaders, helpers and group	Procedures for hot drink & food - must be seated; allow time to cool; check with tip of tongue or knuckle of little finger	2	2	4	Food/drink may be hot, group will have the procedures explained to them	Leader During session	Group learn how to eat/drink hot things without hurting themselves and can enjoy food/drink in Forest School

Shelters/Structures

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing preventative measures	Probability (P) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Rating (PXS) 1-25	What measures need to be taken?	Who? When?	Benefits
1	Site	See Site Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Site Risk Assessment	2	2	4	See Site Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Site Risk Assessment
2	Weather	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	1	2	2	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment
3	Collecting natural materials	See Collecting Natural Materials Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Collecting Natural Materials Risk Assessment	1	2	2	See Collecting Natural Materials Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Collecting Natural Materials Risk Assessment
4	Tools	See Tool Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Tool Risk Assessment	1	4	4	See Tool Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Tool Risk Assessment
5	Shelter/structure collapsing	Banging head, entrapment, minor injuries	Leaders, helpers and group	Specific knots and lashings used, group advised where to build shelters/structures	2	4	8	Group taught and practise knots and lashing, adult supervision and advice, appropriate site and materials to be used, shelters/structures not to exceed head height	Leader and helpers Before and during sessions	Group learn to self-risk assess, to keep safe and to master and use skills
6	Protruding and heavy branches	Banging head, poking eyes	Leaders, helpers and group	Group advised not to use sharp/spiky or heavy branches,	3	3	9	Ensure group are aware of safe materials to use and	Leader and helpers Before and	Group learn to self-risk assess, to

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				'Danger Detectives' discussion at the start of each session				how to move around the site and shelters/structures safely	during sessions	keep safe and to master and use skills
7	Resources and equipment on the ground	Tripping	Leaders, helpers and group	'Danger Detectives' discussion at the start of each session, ensure equipment is returned to the correct place when not in use	3	3	9	Ensure group are aware of how to move safely around the site and shelters/structures, and of where to store equipment when not in use	Leader and helpers Before and during sessions	Group learn to self-risk assess, to keep safe and to master and use skills
8	Moving heavy items	Pulling muscles, crushing	Leaders, helpers and group	Nobody to move anything they find too heavy, ask an adult if they need	1	3	3	Ensure group know not to lift/move things they find too heavy, adults to help when required	Leaders and helpers During sessions	Group learn to self-risk assess and to keep safe

Tools

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing preventative measures	Probability (P) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Rating (PXS) 1-25	What measures need to be taken?	Who? When?	Benefits
1	Bow saw	Minor and major cuts, trapping hand	Leaders, helpers and group	Blade covers on saws and stored in tool bag when not in use, glove worn on non-tool hand, 'Tool Talk' given before using saws, regular maintenance of saws	2	3	6	Ensure group know how to use, transport and store the saws safely, including wearing a glove on their non-tool hand, assume respect position when using saws, First Aid kit always on site	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to use tools safely and effectively and keep safe
2	Sheath knife	Minor and major cuts, stabs	Leaders, helpers and group	Sheaths on knives and stored in tool box or carried around neck when not in use, no glove to be worn, 'Tool Talk' given before using knives, regular maintenance	2	3	6	Ensure group know how to use, transport and store the knives safely, assume respect position when using knives, First Aid kit always on site	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to use tools safely and effectively and keep safe
3	Bill hook	Minor and major cuts, stabs	Leaders, helpers and group	Covers on bill hooks and stored in tool box when not in use, no glove to be worn, 'Tool Talk' given before using bill hooks, regular maintenance	2	3	6	Ensure group know how to use, transport and store the bill hooks safely, assume respect position when using bill hooks, First Aid kit always on site	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to use tools safely and effectively and keep safe
4	Loppers	Minor and	Leaders,	Loppers stored in	2	3	6	Ensure group know	Leader	Group learn

		major cuts, severed digits	helpers and group	tool bag when not in use, no glove to be worn, 'Tool Talk' given before using loppers, regular maintenance				how to use, transport and store the loppers safely, First Aid kit always on site	Before and during sessions	how to use tools safely and effectively and keep safe
5	Secateurs	Minor cuts, severed digits, stabs	Leaders, helpers and group	Secateurs stored in tool bag when not in use, no glove to be worn, 'Tool Talk' given before using secateurs, regular maintenance	2	3	6	Ensure group know how to use, transport and store the secateurs safely, First Aid kit always on site	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to use tools safely and effectively and keep safe
6	Mallet	Banging fingers, heads and other body parts	Leaders, helpers and group	Mallets stored in tool box when not in use, no glove to be worn, 'Tool Talk' given before using mallets, regular maintenance	2	2	4	Ensure group know how to use, transport and store the mallets safely, First Aid kit always on site	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to use tools safely and effectively and keep safe
7	Hand drill	Minor and major cuts	Leaders, helpers and group	Drills and drill bits stored in tool box when not in use, no glove to be worn, 'Tool Talk' given before using drills, regular maintenance	2	3	6	Ensure group know how to use, transport and store the hand drills and drill bits safely, First Aid kit always on site	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to use tools safely and effectively and keep safe
8	Spade	Banging heads and other body parts, severed digits	Leaders, helpers and group	Spades stored in a safe place when not in use, no glove to be worn, 'Tool Talk' given before using drills, regular maintenance	2	3	6	Ensure group know how to use, transport and store the spades safely, First Aid kit always on site	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to use tools safely and effectively and keep safe

Collecting Natural Materials

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing preventative measures	Probability (P) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Rating (PXS) 1-25	What measures need to be taken?	Who? When?	Benefits
1	Site	See Site Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Site Risk Assessment	2	2	4	See Site Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Site Risk Assessment
2	Weather	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	1	2	2	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment
3	Moving heavy items	Pulling muscles, crushing	Leaders, helpers and group	Nobody to move anything they find too heavy, ask an adult if they need	1	3	3	Ensure group know not to lift/move things they find too heavy, adults to help when required	Leaders and helpers During sessions	Group learn to self-risk assess and to keep safe
4	Insects and plants	Stings, anaphylactic shock	Leaders, helpers and group	Be aware of areas that contain stinging plants and insects, 'Danger Detectives' discussion at the start of each session	2	4	8	Ensure group knows what plants may sting and that stinging insects are around, and raise awareness of areas containing them, wear gloves if collecting stinging plants.	Leaders Before and during sessions	Group learn how to self-risk assess and to keep safe
5	Litter and debris	Cuts	Leaders, helpers and group	Any litter in the area is pick up as and when noticed by the adults, leader to be informed of hazardous litter, use	1	2	2	Ensure the group is aware of potential hazards and investigate areas carefully. If any litter is observed the	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to self-risk assess and to keep safe

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				gloves when picking up litter				leader is to be informed the group made aware. Make arrangements for removal of hazardous litter		
6	Dog faeces	Infection and disease	Leaders, helpers and group	Awareness of faeces	1	3	3	Group to make leader aware of any faeces and leader to remove appropriately while wearing gloves	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to self-risk assess and to keep safe
7	Fungi and toxic plants	Poison	Leaders, helpers and group	No touching fungi or known toxic plants, avoid areas with large amounts of fungi or toxic plants	1	5	5	Make group and helpers aware of fungi and toxic plants, ensure group knows not to eat any fungi or toxic plants, ensure group washes hands thoroughly before eating anything	Leader Before and during session	Group learn how to self-risk assess, to keep safe and not to eat fungi or unknown plants
8	Foraging - other than fungi	Poison, scratching, stings	Leaders, helpers and group	Only to be done as part of an adult-led activity	2	5	10	The leader will identify and make the group aware of dangers Not to be done without leader's guidance.	Leader Before and during session	Group learn about edible plants and berries
9	Lifting and swinging sticks	Bangs and scrapes	Leaders, helpers and group	Group shown how to lift and carry sticks safely	2	2	4	Leader and helpers to intervene when sticks are not being transported safely	Leader and helpers During sessions	Group learn how to self-risk assess and to keep safe

Rope and String Activities

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing preventative measures	Probability (P) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Rating (PXS) 1-25	What measures need to be taken?	Who? When?	Benefits
1	Site	See Site Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Site Risk Assessment	2	2	4	See Site Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Site Risk Assessment
2	Weather	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	1	2	2	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment
3	Visibility	Tripping, catching neck, entanglement	Leaders, helpers and group	Rope used to mark areas is to be brightly coloured and any string/rope not being used should be picked up and returned to the equipment area	2	3	6	Other items, such as bags or tags, can be tied to the rope to make it more visible, group to be made aware of rope markers and to pick up string	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to self-risk assess and to keep safe
4	Rope burn	Friction burns	Leaders, helpers and group	Gloves will be worn if an activity involves pulling a heavy rope	1	2	2	Activities involving rope pulling will be controlled b leader	Leader During sessions	Group learn how to self-risk assess and to keep safe

Blindfold Activities

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing preventative measures	Probability (P) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Rating (PXS) 1-25	What measures need to be taken?	Who? When?	Benefits
1	Site	See Site Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Site Risk Assessment	2	2	4	See Site Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Site Risk Assessment
2	Weather	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	1	2	2	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment
3	Wearing a blindfold	Blindfold too tight	Leaders, helpers and group	Blindfolds made of soft, elastic materials or blindfold goggles	1	1	1	Leader to explain how to put on blindfolds	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to communicate to others efficiently
4	Walking into or tripping over things	Bangs, bumps, cuts, grazes	Leaders, helpers and group	Group know how to move about the site safely, area in use will be cleared as much as possible of any hazards	3	3	9	Ensure group know the hazards in the area, leader to clear area as much as possible before the session, adults to intervene if situation looks unsafe	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn how to communicate to others efficiently, self-risk assess and keep safe

Leaving the Ground Activities

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing preventative measures	Probability (P) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Rating (PXS) 1-25	What measures need to be taken?	Who? When?	Benefits
1	Site	See Site Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Site Risk Assessment	2	2	4	See Site Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Site Risk Assessment
2	Weather	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	1	2	2	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment
3	Ropes	See Rope and String Activities Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Rope and String Activities Risk Assessment	2	3	6	See Rope and String Activities Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Rope and String Activities Risk Assessment
4	Falling	Bangs to the head, scrapes, cuts, broken bones	Leaders, helpers and group	Identify trees/branches to avoid, group to check with Leader before climbing, set height limit	2	5	10	Permission slips for climbing and jumping activities, existing injuries/medical issues identified, First Aid kit always on site, Group should only do what they feel comfortable	Leader Before and during sessions	Group to challenge themselves, learn to self-risk assess and to keep safe
5	Hammock and rope swing	Bangs, broken bones from falling	Leaders, helpers and group	Leader to identify trees/branches to avoid, leader to supervise construction and use				Leader to make group aware of consequences of pushing too hard on rope swing and not to swing on hammock	Leader Before and during sessions	Group to learn challenge, to self-risk assess and to keep safe

Fire

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing preventative measures	Probability (P) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Rating (PXS) 1-25	What measures need to be taken?	Who? When?	Benefits
1	Site	See Site Risk Assessment Slipping, tripping, falling into fire	Leaders, helpers and group	See Site Risk Assessment Ensure there is a safe working distance from fire to prevent slipping, seating around the fire will be at least 1.5 metres away	2	5	10	See Site Risk Assessment Group know safety procedures, how to position themselves correctly when using the fire so if a slip or fall occurs they will not make contact with the fire	Leader Before and during sessions	See Site Risk Assessment Group learn to light and extinguish fires safely, to respect fire, to self-risk assess and to keep safe
2	Weather	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment Fire spreading	Leaders, helpers and group	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment Use wind breaks for the fire	1	2	2	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment
3	Lighting fires	Burns, setting surrounding vegetation alight	Leaders, helpers and group	Fire pit will be strategically placed with minimum risk of setting surrounding foliage alight, burning sticks not to be removed from fire, fire gloves to be worn when adding sticks to fire	2	5	10	Large amounts of water available next to fire pit, Fire First Aid kit next to fire pit, leader to demonstrate lighting and extinguishing fires, leader to ensure fires are extinguish before leaving site	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn to light and extinguish fires safely, to respect fire, to self-risk assess and to keep safe

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4	Cooking	Burns from kettles, pans, wood or hot water	Leaders, helpers and group	Leaders will supervise removal of all items from the fire area, fire glove to be worn when tending fire or removing hot food	2	4	8	Group made aware of fire policy and to move around in fire pit in a safe and controlled manner	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn to light and extinguish fires safely, to respect fire, to self-risk assess and to keep safe
5	Eating	Burns from hot food	Leaders, helpers and group	Group told about dangers of eating food directly from the fire	2	2	4	Ensure food is removed from fire to cool before eating	Leader During sessions	Group learn to light and extinguish fires safely, to respect fire, to self-risk assess and to keep safe

Water

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing preventative measures	Probability (P) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Rating (PXS) 1-25	What measures need to be taken?	Who? When?	Benefits
1	Site	See Site Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Site Risk Assessment	2	5	10	See Site Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Site Risk Assessment
2	Weather	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leaders, helpers and group	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	1	2	2	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment	Leader Before and during sessions	See Weather and General Welfare Risk Assessment
3	Falling in water	Drowning	Leaders, helpers and group	Safety talk given before activities near water, life saving ring always at pond	1	5	5	Correct adult ratios to be used near water	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn to stay safe near water, to self-risk assess and to keep safe
4	Getting wet	Hypothermia	Leaders, helpers and group	Check weather and ensure proper clothing and equipment, see Weather Risk Assessment	2	5	10	Consider the weather for all activities involving water	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn to stay safe near water, to self-risk assess and to keep safe
5	Standing water	Disease	Leaders, helpers and group	Standing water is noted, advice sought if necessary	2	4	8	Group informed of dangers of disease from stagnant, standing water	Leader Before and during sessions	Group learn to stay safe near water, to self-risk assess and to keep safe