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| **Hazard** | **Benefits** | **Risks** | **Safety Measures** |
| Trip hazards such as uneven ground, muddy surfaces, natural hazards and logs | Negotiating the terrain means that children become more aware of their surroundings. Core strength and coordination is improved | Slips, trips and falls which could cause injuries such as cuts, abrasions, bruises, breaks etc | Instructions to walk carefully/ check where you’re walking  All learners to always wear appropriate footwear  Remove obvious trip hazards during pre session site check  Encourage children to put things they aren’t using away to reduce trip hazards |
| Low branches, causing scratches and eye injuries | Aware of surroundings  Trees provide leaves  Low branches provide good places to climb/ areas for rope swings etc | Scratches and abrasions  Bruises and bumps | Point out the location of low branches to the children  Cut back branches where needed |
| Biting and stinging insects | Insects improve biodiversity  Children are fascinated by them  Opportunity for children to become more able to tolerate and learn about a variety of insects | Stings/ bites/ irritation of skin  Allergic reaction to stings | Warn children not to disturb or try to catch bees/ wasps etc  Monitor site for nests/ activity, and avoid those sites  Appropriate clothing to cover arms and legs  Check for allergies and ensure epi-pen is present and adults know how to use it |
| Brambles/ thorns and stinging nettles | Biodiversity and good identification of a range of flora and fauna  Nettles can be used in a variety of ways | Stings, scratches and splinters | Show children location of any of these plants, explain what may happen if they come into contact with them  First aid provided where necessary |
| Poisonous/ toxic plants and fungi | Increased awareness and knowledge about a range of plants | Illness/ poisoning  Reactions to skin | Ensure hands are always washed at the end of the session or before eating/ drinking  Children reminded to never eat anything they find on site unless provided by FS Leader, and educated about the fact that some things are poisonous  Irritated skin to be treated by First Aider  Adult aware of the area and of anything toxic |
| Ticks | Biodiversity- ticks can live on a range of animals | Illness- flu like symptoms can signal Lyme Disease | If aware of ticks on the site, inform children of what to do  Leaflets home where appropriate |
| Harmful litter eg. Metal, glass, hypodermic needles | Children to build up an awareness of potential dangers  Children to help with general litter picking, giving them ownership of their site | Cuts, scratches, infections from needles | Remove any harmful litter on pre session site check  Educate children to different types of litter, especially those that could cause harm |
| Exposure to the elements- Rain, wind, snow, ice and sun | Children learn to deal with, and work in a variety of different weather types, and are aware of what they need to minimise the effects of the elements. Learning about seasons | Hypothermia  Heat/ sun stroke  Falling branches/ debris in the wind  Slippery conditions during snow and ice | Ensure that all children are wearing clothes appropriate to the type of weather and the season  Long sleeves and trousers worn where possible  Sun screen applied when required  Use canopies and tarpaulins as protection where it is safe to do so  Ensure children are hydrated  In extreme cases work indoors and have an alternative |
| Animal faeces | Identification of animals by looking at their poo  A good basis for learning conversations and information sharing | Children to stand in/ touch/ pick up faeces  Illness to occur as a result | Look for faeces during pre session site check and remove where possible  Children to wash hands if they come into contact with faeces  Point out location of faeces during session so it can be avoided |
| Structural damage to trees | Trees provide places to climb, improving spatial awareness and core strength and confidence  opportunities for discussion about trees and how to look after them | Bruising from falling branches etc  Trips and falls | Check branches and trees during pre session site check  If there is any substantial damage to trees, work away from them- on school field  Ensure Blooming Gardens are regularly on site and check tree health |