



RISK ASSESSMENT – Loppers



Low risk – a minor injury e.g. scratch or bruise

Medium risk – significant loss/damage or injury such as broken bones (requires hospital trip)

High risk – extensive loss, multiple injuries or death

Location/Activity:	Stoneydelph Forest School	Date:	January 2025
FS Leader:	Miss Sarah Kidner	Review date:	January 2026

Hazard	Who is at risk?	Risk	Potential level of risk:	Control measures and who is responsible for actions	Level of risk after control	Risk benefit
Correct use of Loppers	Adults/ children	Cuts, punctures, abrasions and bruises	High	Tool checked to be in good working order by FSL before use Check area before using the Loppers Clear the area of any debris that can cause a slip, trip or fall. FSL - Tool talk and safe working distance 1.5m Use the loppers for cutting wood smaller than a 10p piece For cutting green (new) wood like willow or hazel. Gloves only to be worn by the person holding the wood	Medium	Learners will understand the correct purpose and method on how to safely use and handle the Loppers. Managing their own risks and make safer choices.
Handling Loppers	Adults/ children	Cuts, punctures, abrasions and bruises	High	FSL- Tool talk and safe working distance 1.5m Ratio - adult to child 1:3 lower at FS leaders discretion. Qualified First aider and fully stocked first aid kit. Don't touch the blade always hold the handles . No gloves to be worn by the person using the loppers. Hard hat, goggles and suitable closed toe footwear if using above shoulder level.	Medium	Learners will have the opportunity to select, collect and return their own tool in the correct way. This will give them a deeper sense of ownership over their activity and the safety and risks.
Carrying Loppers	Adults/ children	Slips, trips and falls. Cuts, punctures, abrasions and bruises	High	FSL - Tool talk and safe working distance 1.5m One hand on each shaft, under arm and blade pointing to the ground No running while carrying the Loppers. Be aware of surrounding to avoid any slip, trips or falls	Medium	

Passing Loppers	Adults/ children	Cuts, punctures, abrasions and bruises	High	FSL - Tool talk and safe working distance 1.5m Passing Loppers with one hand on each handle, with the blade pointing down. Or placing the Lopper safely on the floor, blade pointing to feet/stump	Medium	Learners will be aware of their surroundings giving them the responsibility of maintaining and preserving their Forest School area.
Cleaning and Storing loppers	FSL/ Assistant	Cuts, punctures, abrasions and bruises	High	FSL to collect Loppers, clean and count. Inspect for wear and tear. Store Lopper into a secure tool bag. Store bag into a secure shed/container. Cleaning: • Hold Loppers away from body • Brush blade (Small brush e.g. tooth brush) • Mark blade with marker pen • Use cigar stone in a circular motion evenly along each side of the blade • Spray with WD40 along the blade	Medium	Learners will develop their gross motor skills.
Falling branches	Adults/ children	Cuts, bumps and bruises	High	Hard hat, goggles and suitable footwear if cutting above shoulder level. Check area before using the loppers. Clear the area of any debris that can cause a slip, trip or fall. Support high branches correctly if unsafe. Inform and explain what could happen within the woodland area	Medium	

	Signature	Date
Forest School leader		
Head Teacher		
Forest School Assistant		