



RISK ASSESSMENT – Shelter Building

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

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

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
Choosing a safe site	Adults/ children	Slips, trips, falls, cuts, scratches, grazes, abrasions	Medium	FSL to check site prior to the session Additional check with the learners in their chosen area. Check for low or damaged branches Appropriate PPE – closed toe footwear, long trousers, long sleeve tops, hard hats and gloves if necessary.	Low	Giving the learners freedom to choose a site for shelter building gives them ownership over the activity.
Climbing on logs and stumps	Adults/ children	Slips, trips, falls, cuts, scratches, abrasions, bruises	Medium	Additional check with the learners in their chosen area. FSL to ensure appropriate closed toe footwear are worn FSL to model how to rock a stump with their foot to see if it's wobbly. Adult supervision so support can be offered	Low	Learners will be aware of their surroundings giving them the responsibility of maintaining and preserving their Forest School area.
Transporting branches larger than their arm	Adults/ children	Muscle strain, slips, trips, falls, cuts, scratches, abrasions	High	FSL demonstrate safe transportation methods – dragging (using a rope) Adult supervision to ensure safe transportation Teach the learners a rhyme: “if it takes more than one, it takes two, if it takes more than two, it takes three, if it takes more than three, it's a tree-let it be”	Medium	Moving over and around woodland features is an essential component of exploring a habitat.

Securing the shelter above head level using ropes	Adults/ children	Rope burns, strangulation, slips, trips, falls, cuts, scratches, grazes, abrasions	High	FSL to demonstrate knots using ropes Ropes to be brightly coloured Do not tie rope at neck height Loose rope tied up and not dangling Ropes removed and counted in at the end of the session Adult supervision and assistance if necessary Gloves if pulling a rope Adult to advise and monitor where required Support high branches correctly if unsafe. FSL to check the safety/stability of shelters built from branches, both while building and before getting in the shelter.	Medium	Learners will develop their fine/ gross motor skills, strength and coordination. Working independently and as part of a team will promote discussion, good behaviour and enjoyment.
Moving heavy logs	Adults/ children	Muscle strain, slips, trips, falls, cuts, scratches, abrasions	High	FSL to model safe lifting with bent knees and straight backs Teach the learners a rhyme: “if it takes more than one, it takes two, if it takes more than two, it takes three, if it takes more than three, it’s a tree-let it be”	Medium	

	Signature	Date
Forest School leader		
Head Teacher		
Forest School Assistant		