



RISK ASSESSMENT – Leaving the Ground (Climbing)

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
Climbing on embankments	Adults/ children	Slips, trips, falls, cuts, scratches, grazes, abrasions, breaks	Medium	FSL to check site prior to the session Additional check if weather changes Appropriate PPE – closed toe footwear	Low	Learners will be aware of their surroundings giving them the responsibility of maintaining and preserving their Forest School area.
Climbing trees	Adults/ children	Slips, trips, falls, cuts, scratches, abrasions, bruises, broken bones Serious injury	High	FSL to check site and weather prior to the session Additional check with the learners at their chosen tree Clear area below before climbing - logs, stones etc FSL to ensure appropriate closed toe footwear are worn Discuss and show the learners appropriate branches to stand/hang on - Thickness of thigh can stand on - Thickness of arm can hang on Ratio - 1:1 Learner to only climb as high as they feel safe or twice their own head height. Practise jumping and landing safely with bent knees. No climbing in wet conditions.	Medium	Learners will learn to manage safety risks for themselves and others. Build resilience, self-esteem and a trial and error approach.

Slackline	Adults/ children	Slips, trips, falls, cuts, scratches, abrasions, bruises, broken bones	Medium	FSL to check site prior to the session FSL to check the condition of the trees FSL to check the condition of the slackline Keep lower line at knee height, upper line above head height. Brightly coloured slacklines, so they can be seen FSL to check the tightness of the slackline before and during the use.	Low	Learners will develop their gross motor skills, strength and coordination. Improvement in core strength and muscles improves the learner's self-confidence.
Tree swings	Adults/ children	Rope burns, slips, trips, falls, cuts, scratches, grazes, abrasions, broken bones	Medium	FSL to check site prior to the session FSL to check the condition of the tree Establish a safe swing area FSL to check rope for wear and tear, replace immediately Use a round turn and 2 half hitches knot to secure swing FSL to test the swing before learners Assess and adapt for each individual learners needs and abilities	Low	

	Signature	Date
Forest School leader		
Head Teacher		
Forest School Assistant		