

SENSE OUTSIDE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR MILFORD ON SEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Created by Virginia Darley 24 April 2025

The purpose of this Risk Assessment is to provide adequate control of health, safety, and environmental risks arising from Sense Outside's activities in Milford on Sea Primary School's Forest School sites. It covers potential risks: 1) to those on the activity; 2) caused to others by those on the activity; 3) caused by others to those on the activity.

Ser	HAZARD	RISKS INVOLVED	PRE-CONTROL RISK RATING	CONTROL MEASURES	ACTUAL RISK RATING
	Safety				
1.	Weather conditions, hot and cold	Hypothermia, heat stroke	3	Check the weather forecast before sessions. Ensure appropriate clothing eg. Waterproofs, sunhats, sunscreen. Provide shade in hot weather and suitable covering in wet weather. Ongoing monitoring through sessions.	1
2.	Slips, trips and falls	Scrapes, cuts and bangs	4	Leaders should complete a pre-session safety check and move any potential hazards. Children to be warned that ground is uneven. Leaders to point out potential hazards. First Aider to be on-site at all times and First Aid Box provided. Swings and attachments including daisy chains will be checked before each session for wear and tear. Carabiner's with a safety latch will be used to attach swings. Leaders will have school radio and be able to radio for help if needed.	2
3.	Low branches/trees	Falling from, banging or swinging into trees/branches. Scrapes, bangs, broken bones	3	Leaders to point out eye height branches where possible and inform group of dangers. If children climb in trees, they are shown not to put their weight on anything less than a wrist width in diameter. They are taught to keep 3 limbs on the tree at all times ie. 1 leg/2 hands or 2 legs/1 hand.	2
4.	Dead trees, falling trees	Scrapes, bangs, serious injury	3	Leaders will choose suitable sites for activities according to weather conditions. Leaders will do pre-session assessments and inform the school of any potential dangers.	1
5.	Broken glass, sharp objects	Cuts from sharp objects	2	Children advised to look out for any sharp objects when digging in the sandpit/mud kitchen areas and to report to a leader if they find glass or metal.	1
6.	Cooking hazards	Cuts from knives	3	Children will be advised to cut on a safe surface and will be taught how to hold and cut with a knife. A first aider and a first aid box must be on site. Children will be told to wash their hands before and after dealing with food prep.	1

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7.	Poisonous plants/fungi	Toxic poisoning	3	Leaders will do pre-session assessments. Leaders will advise the group not to pick or eat anything without asking. Leaders will keep a reference guide on site for plant identification. Children will wash their hands before eating snack foods. A First Aider will be on site for all activities.	1
8.	Insect/snake bites	Stings, anaphylaxis	3	Identify and avoid areas with high insect activity. Ensure First Aid kit contains treatment for bites and stings. Encourage long sleeves and the use of repellants. Ensure participants have in-date Epi pens if prescribed and a proper action plan. First Aider on site at all times.	1
9.	Fire	Burns, scalds	3	Use fire pit that has been provided. Keep fire to a manageable size and supervised at all times. Educate children on fire safety and ensure safety rules are always in place. Have water accessible at all times. Establish emergency procedures and ensure group are aware of them.	1
10.	Toos use (garden forks, wood knives)	Cuts, grazes	3	Use age appropriate tools. Ensure gloves are used. Teach proper handling techniques and supervise closely. Make regular tool checks and maintenance. Put tools away safely after use.	1
11.	Water hazards; ponds and streams	Falling in/drowning	3	Inform group that the small pond is deep enough to fall in. Set clear boundaries about what is allowed and only carry out specifically planned and controlled activities. Children to lie on platform to pond dip.	1
12.	Den collapse	Broken limbs, bangs to head	3	Children will be encouraged to think about the risks of collapsing dens and only climb on them with supervision and discussion.	1
13.	Rope activities	Burns, strangulation	3	Children will be advised about how to work and play with ropes. Adults will ensure proper use and safe storage afterwards.	1
14.	Child running away from site	Encountering traffic, getting lost	3	Set clear boundaries. Ensure appropriate supervision. Have an action plan in place.	1

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15.	Children becoming emotionally dysregulated	Physical aggression towards staff, students or themselves, or damage to equipment	3	Parents to inform of any previous risk behaviors via registration form. Regular review with school SENCO via weekly check in verbally of any risk behaviors observed at school. Use of school positive behavior support plans if required. Chloe trained in TCI (Therapeutic Crisis Intervention)	1
16.					
17.					

Risk Level Key**1 – Very Low Risk**

Minimal likelihood of harm occurring and consequences are negligible. No action needed beyond routine controls.

2 – Low Risk

Unlikely to occur, and the impact would be minor. Monitor and maintain standard precautions.

3 – Medium Risk

Possible occurrence with moderate consequences. Action may be needed to reduce risk and monitor regularly.

4 – High Risk

Likely to occur with significant impact. Immediate action required to reduce risk; consider alternative approaches.

5 – Very High Risk

Almost certain to occur and/or severe consequences. Activity should **not proceed** without major control measures or redesign.