

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment**

Providers must have a clear and well-understood policy, and procedures for assessing any risks to children's safety, and review risk assessments regularly.

### **8.10 Forest School**

#### **Policy statement**

We have a woodland site in Pinewood forest where we take small groups of children for an entire morning or afternoon to take part in 'Forest school activities'. Our Forest school programmes run for 6 weeks. Our Forest school programme is entirely child led learning, alongside side nature, creating a sense of community, and developing a love for the outdoors. We follow our risk assessment procedures and policies to keep the children and staff safe at all times.

#### **Procedures**

##### Absconding

Should a child go missing from the group, the group leader will be informed immediately and the activity will be suspended. Children will be recalled and an additional member of staff will be summoned from the nursery by phone. The children will be escorted back to nursery while a search is made. The flying start **Missing Child Policy** will be followed.

##### Emergency

All participants are briefed what to do in an emergency or dangerous situation.

- A whistle will be blown as a signal to stop what you are doing and gather with a member of staff, be silent and wait for instructions.
- Group leader will assess the situation, the nature of the incident or accident. They will ensure the rest of the group are safe from danger and supervised.
- Group leader will give First Aid if needed. An incident report will be completed on return to Nursery.

##### In case of serious injury

If anyone sustains a serious injury or becomes ill and needs medical assistance;

- 999 should be dialled and then notify nursery. Nursery will call the parent.
- Rest of the group will be supervised away from incident or danger.
- Member of staff will be sent from Nursery to assist.
- Staff member will meet ambulance at site entrance and direct crew to woodland activity site.
- If a child needs to go to hospitals and parent has not arrived a staff member will accompany the child
- Nursery will keep parent informed.
- In minor cases parents will be called to collect their child.

## Eating Policy

We recognise that by introducing the children to a woodland environment it increases the children's interest in berries and fruits which may be found outside. Children will be educated about the dangers of eating berries and other things growing in the environment. A prepared snack will be offered to the children following the procedures below:

- Wipes and antibacterial gel will be used to clean hands before eating and drinking.
- Food and drink will be brought in containers from nursery.
- This is the only food the children can eat.
- Children will be told not to pick berries or fruit on the outings.

## Toileting

Before leaving nursery the children will be given the opportunity to use the toilet. Whilst at Forest school the children will be allowed to use a secluded area for toileting, known as 'The Wee Tree'. If help is required this will be given by a member of staff. Toilet paper, wipes and a bag for disposal will be provided.

## Fire Safety

A camp fire is an important part of Woodland Activities. We aim to ensure children and adults do this activity safely and without risk to their health. During summer months we must have permission from ground staff to have a fire and if allowed build the fire on paving slabs.

If in any doubt about the weather or children's behaviour a fire will not be made.

We adopt the following procedures for fire safety:

- Only a previous agreed location will be used for the fire.
- Campfire is enclosed by logs or stones to prevent spreading
- Fire areas are surrounded by seating logs 1.5 metres away from the fire pit.
- The children are taught very strict fire safety rules for 6 weeks leading up to the campfire.
- When the campfire is in use children are not permitted into the area without permission
- When allowed access to the campfire children must walk around the outside of the seating logs and wait for permission to step over. They must then sit on the log ensuring legs are drawn in and not stretched out.
- Once seated around the campfire the children must remain seated until directed by an adult to move.
- Children must never cross the inner area and will be taught how to change seats by walking around the outside of the seating area.
- Long sleeves and trousers must be worn
- Children are not permitted to throw or add anything to the fire.
- If there is a clear wind direction children will be seated away from the smoke
- If smoke is blowing around the children will be advised to turn away, place their hands over their face and close their eyes. The leader may rearrange seating if smoke is a problem.

### Toasting marshmallows or dough

- Children with 1:1 ratio walk with adult to the fireside.
- Kneel on one knee to avoid stumbling and warm food on end of stick.
- Once warmed return to seat to eat.
- Ensure food is not too hot to eat.

### Safety and Responsibility

- Only trained adults will light the fire
- Fires are lit with fire lighters/ cotton wool, petroleum jelly and a strike stick.
- No flammable liquids are used.
- No plastics are burnt
- Sticks/ woods must be placed, not thrown into the fire by trained adults.
- The hand must never go over the fire.

### Extinguishing

- All fires must be put out at the end of the session
- Water should always be at hand during campfire sessions
- Whenever possible the fuels should be burnt down to ash.
- Leaders must ensure that any large remains of wood are separated from one another.
- At the end of the session the fire must be doused with water and stirred until all smoke and steam have ceased.
- Large build ups of potash need to be dispersed when the ash is cold, preferably the following day. It should be finely scattered to enable natural decomposition.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Flying Start Nursery

Held on

Date to be reviewed

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory

Role of signatory

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