

Risk/Benefit assessment Outdoor Play Sessions

Organisation name: **Wolves Play Café Community Interest Company**

Date of initial risk assessment: **07/09/2020**

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are the benefits and who will benefit?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	Action by who? Action by when?
Slips and trips	Staff and visitors may be injured if they trip over objects or slip on spillages	Children and adults: - opportunities to move freely in an outdoor environment Children: - opportunities to learn to negotiate physical barriers and assess physical dangers - opportunities to learn to problem solve and look for alternatives	- Ensure participants are aware of need for outdoor clothing and suitable footwear - Children to be supervised at all times - Staff keep walkways as clear as possible	- Briefing on registration and entry to area	HS All participants
Falling branches	All customers and staff Children attending sessions injured by bumps to head or other parts of body Children may be injured from climbing and falling off natural objects	Children and adults: - Opportunities to understand that taking steps to mitigate low risk factors opens the world for exploration, learning opportunities and experiences. - Opportunities to learn about tree and forest care and management, lifecycles, decomposition and natural recycling of materials	- Check area for any high-risk areas before session - Parents/caregivers are responsible for supervising children at all times	- Signs to highlight children need to be supervised at all times	HS All participants
Lost children	Children separated from or deliberately leave parent/caregiver supervision and risks of this	Children: - Opportunities to talk about taking responsibility for personal safety. - Remembering to 'check in' with carers regularly.	- Parents/caregivers are responsible for supervising children at all times - Limit number of children per session - Provide welcome and goodbye with register - Safeguarding Policy in place - Be familiar with venue contacts and lost child procedures in case of emergency - Areas used are enclosed within perimeter fencing - Notice on gates to remind users to close after use.	- Signs to clarify 'WPC only' - Signs to highlight children need to be supervised at all times	HS All participants
Strong winds, heavy rain, storms	All customers and staff risk of injury, cuts, bruises from wind-blown flying objects, lightning strikes and falls	Children: - Opportunities to talk about weather conditions related to storm damage. - Opportunities to talk about suitable clothing and use senses to experience 'weather'.	- Daily monitoring of weather forecasts - Collecting contact details to enable informing customers in case of cancellation of sessions - Notice of suitable clothing for weather conditions on booking form	- Cancel sessions in the event of weather warnings or predicted inclement conditions	HS LS

Gazebo shelter	All customers and staff risk of injury, cuts, bruises from temporary shelter moving or collapsing	Children and adults: - Opportunities to have social contact even in slightly inclement weather Children: - Opportunities to talk about weather conditions - Opportunities to talk about suitable clothing and use senses to experience 'weather' - Increased opportunities to have outdoor play time	- Ensure structure is erected correctly and tethered securely - Monitor weather conditions for gusty conditions - Remove shelter completely in windy conditions	Cancel sessions in the event of weather warnings or predicted inclement conditions	
Play Resources	All customers and staff risk of injury, cuts, bruises from play resources	Children and adults: - Opportunities to play in daylight enhances health and mental performance - Opportunities to increase activity levels, with greater freedom to run, jump, and climb - Opportunities for hands-on learning - Research shows that being outdoors reduces stress levels, enhances mood, and improves concentration - Taking part in play sessions enhances opportunities to interact socially, overcome fears, and develop a lifelong connection with nature.	- Parents/caregivers are responsible for supervising children at all times - Resources are checked before and after each session for damage - Age appropriate resources are used in activities	- Signs to highlight children need to be supervised at all times	HS All participants
Ingestion of or injury from natural objects e.g logs, nettles, brambles, fungi	Children	Children and adults: Opportunities to learn about the uses and dangers of plants and fungi, including stinging nettles and poisonous plants and fungi.	- Checking site prior to session for hazards - Taking First Aid kit to site - Parents/caregivers are responsible for supervising children at all times	Signs to highlight children need to be supervised at all times	HS All participants
Infection	All customers and staff illness from surfaces, play resources, nappies	Children and adults: - Opportunities for reinforcement of importance of hand hygiene in infection control - Opportunities to play in daylight enhances health and mental performance - Research shows that being outdoors reduces stress levels, enhances mood, and improves concentration - Taking part in play sessions enhances opportunities to interact socially, overcome fears, and develop a lifelong connection with nature.	- Encourage baby change in restricted area - Disinfect resources after each session - Encourage handwashing (see separate risk assessment for infection control)	(See separate risk assessment for infection control) - Nappy bags and nappy bin - Hand washing facilities	HS All participants

Last reviewed Jan 2023 - Next review scheduled for: **Jan 2024** or if there are a change in circumstances, a near-miss or accident occurs.