

RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT: ROPES

Site name: Wild Garden, Nettlebed Community School, High Street, Nettlebed, RG9 5DA

Location grid reference: SU698866

Assessment carried out by: Diana Mills

Date: Sept 2019

Review Date: Sept 2020



RISK BENEFIT: There are significant benefits to children playing with ropes. Physical (brain) development, physics, following instructions, learning knots, safety, learning through experience (accidents and falls, tying knots etc), tree management, imaginative games (i.e tarzan), risk and hazard awareness & management, pleasure and fun through safe use

The FS Leader will be responsible for ensuring all ropes are in good condition - this includes checking, maintaining/cleaning and storage of all ropes. Children will be supervised at all times when playing with ropes, and be taught about the hazards, risks and consequences of rope play.

For insurance purposes, the full height from the end of the rope to its highest likely swing point is not to exceed two (2) metres from ground level

HAZARDS	What is the risk?	Who is AT RISK?	ACTION PROPOSED	Does the BENEFIT outweigh the RISK?
GENERAL ROPE PLAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rope failure (broken bones, head injury, cuts scratches, concussion) - Strangulation inc tying each other up - Falls and scrapes (onto soft or hard ground, or hard/dangerous objects) - Friction Burns (Painful skin removal, blisters, bleeding) 	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always supervise rope play. - Ensure ropes are in excellent condition, check for fraying/damage before every use - FSL to personally test the rope strength by pulling/swinging prior to anyFS participants climbing/swinging - Discuss safety around tying each other up - get children to understand the risks and discourage this type of rope play - Consider wearing gloves if friction burns is an issue - Always ensure the potential fall zone is clear from hazards such as longs, sharp objects, other site users - educate children on what to look out for 	Yes
Tree Swing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Branch breaking - Collision with obstacles - Collision with other people - blunt trauma, broken bones, bruising, - Strangulation, arms legs getting tangled in ropes 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always supervise swing play and carry out visual safety inspection before use - Ensure the tree is suitable to hold the rope and expected weights from participants swinging/climbing - There is very little risk from strangulation from a swing on a single rope - it is very difficult to knot or loop, but still requires supervision - Educate group on dangers/hazards around swing sites - what to look for - collision obstacles, clear ground, strong branch (always check that no one is in the space before you swing) - Avoid overloading ropes - check breaking strain and calculate strain vs knots and weight. - Encourage taking turns rater than overloading - Give swing user a wide berth to avoid collisions - Rope/swing to be removed from tree at the end of each session - Ensure swing is not too high off the ground (max 2m to highest point from ground) - Ongoing dynamic risk assessment during session - stop activity if safety measures not followed 	

Dragging logs with ropes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Muscle injury from heavy weight - Slips, trips and falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage child to ensure weight is appropriate for their size/ability - Discuss issues/safety/health concerns - Verbally and physically identify any ropes that may be a hazard, point out/remind about tree roots and other hazards too
Zip Line/Pully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fingers trapped/pinched - Children letting go and landing awkwardly - Children swinging too fast and hitting a tree/another child - Other participants walking in the way of the swing/zipline - Rope failing - leading to bump, bruises, cuts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always supervise zip wire and physical rope play - Forest School Leader to erect the rope and pulley system and personally test it before the children - Children encouraged to look out for natural hazards, and other people before participating - All children taught to check for activity before entering zip line area and not to proceed if someone is swinging. Equally, any participant on the zip line must check the path is clear before setting off - ongoing dynamic risk assessment

For insurance purposes, participants are not to:

- Climb up a rope with feet higher than 2m fall height
- Swing on a rope where the fall height from the highest point of swing is greater than 2m