

# Wild Wood's Top Rules at Forest School

The Forest School area (behind the rope cordon) is a designated 'no run zone'

## Fire

1. Walk around the fire circle, not across it.
2. Kneel if you are working inside the fire circle.
3. If you put a stick in the fire, it MUST stay there.
4. Never reach inside the fire square and pick something up.
5. Only sticks and logs may be put into the fire.
6. If practicing fire lighting, no more than one ball of cotton wool should be used at a time and only in the shells provided.
7. Children and adults are strongly advised not to wear flammable clothing, including some fleeces and synthetic material. If a child's clothing is deemed as unsuitable, they will not be permitted to engage in any activities inside the fire circle.

## Tool Use

1. Children must not take tools out of the tool bag.
2. Tools must either be used with a competent adult (e.g. bill hook) or under the strict supervision of a capable adult (e.g. sawing), unless specific permission has been given to a specific child(ren) e.g. sawing in pairs.
3. Adults must be aware that children have the capacity and capability to make items which could in turn be dangerous if not used in the correct way or with the correct guidelines and supervision e.g. wooden stakes, bow and arrow, spear etc. Therefore, dynamic Risk Assessments must be conducted in the field during each session. Rather than impose rules and guidelines for use, these should be drawn out from the child through discussion about how the item could be used safely. What are the potential risks and how could they be mitigated?

## Wild Play

1. As with the point above, dynamic risk assessments are essential in the Wild Play area. These would normally be done in discussion with the child(ren) involved e.g. Let's look at how safe this is and if there is anything we need to think about to reduce the risk of an accident. What would happen if ....? How could you make sure this doesn't happen or is less likely to happen?
2. If a teacher, Forest School Leader or other adult sees anything that could result in serious harm they should ACT IMMEDIATELY and without consultation e.g. if a Wild Play den looks unsafe and could fall on a child resulting in serious injury, all children should be moved out of harm's way immediately before discussing the risks with the child(ren).
3. Rope bridges must be no more than 1m from the ground.
4. Tree climbing should be limited to no higher than the extended arm reach of the Forest School Leader or supervising adult. In addition, the suitability of a tree for climbing and the child's footwear should be discussed with the child and dynamically risk assessed e.g. could the child get their foot wedged in the tree resulting in a broken ankle if they fell? If the child fell from the tree, what could they fall onto which might increase the risk of serious injury e.g. a fallen branch, logs or stumps.

## Accidents and Incidents

1. If an incident or accident occurs at Forest School, it should be reported immediately to both the member of School staff on site and one of the Forest School Leaders.
2. If an injury occurs, and it does not require immediate attention, the injured child should be told to go to the school office for First Aid and escorted by a friend or adult.
3. If an injury occurs which needs immediate attention (e.g. a serious cut) the Forest School Leader will administer First Aid and then the child should be escorted to the School Office by an adult.
4. No child is allowed to leave the Forest School area without the permission of a Forest School Leader or a member of school staff.