

	<b>William Gilpin Forest School Risk Assessment</b>			Title		Risk Assessment	
				Reference			
	<b>Area: Den Building</b>		Status		DRAFT/ACTIVE		
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GENERIC HAZARDS			PEOPLE	RATING (RISK = L X S)			RISK CONTROL			
A Stairs	B Stair gate	C Doors	1 Employees	SEVERITY (S)	<b>3. HIGH</b> Major Injury/Fatality	3	6	9	<b>HIGH</b> DO NOT PROCEED, Further controls required	
D Windows	E Flooring	F Shelves				2 Children	<b>2. MEDIUM</b> Notifiable Injury	2		4
G Small movable objects	H Knives	I Cooker	3 Visitors					<b>1. LOW</b> Minor Injury	1	2
J Water	K Food	L Chemicals/Harmful substances		4 Public	<b>LIKELIHOOD (L)</b> 1 LOW    2 MED'    3 HIGH					
M Fire	N Electric sockets	O Lifting/stooping / twisting trunk								
P Cars	Q Visitors	R Strangers								
S Estranged parent	T Climbing	U Child exiting the building unsupervised								
V Radiators	W Animals	X Chicken pen								
Y Tool	Z Plants	A1 Rubbish								
B1 Lost Child	C1 Uneven pathways and protruding roots	D1 Branches at eye level								
E1 Falling deadwood	F1 Wasps & Bees	G1 Extreme weather conditions								
H1 Extreme hot weather	I1 Extreme high wind	J1 Claustrophobia/Fear of the dark								
K1 Falling objects										

<b>Benefits of the activity:</b>	Social interaction and creativity. Den building also stimulates imaginative play and role play situations
<b>Is the risk acceptable?</b>	Yes. Provided reasonable management methods are adopted, risk of injury for most children is very small. Trivial injuries may occur but are outweighed by the benefits of the activity. Where children have specific vulnerabilities, however, this must be taken into account in the risk assessment. Inexperienced children are more likely to be injured than experienced ones and this needs to be taken into account in managing the activity.

ACTIVITY	HAZARD	RISK	PEOPLE AFFECTED	UNCONTROLLED RISK RATING			CONTROL MEASURES	RESIDUAL RISK RATING		
				L	S	R		L	S	R
Carrying heavy logs or branches	O – Lifting/ twisting trunk/ stooping	Physical injury	2	2	3	6	Encourage children to work together to move large pieces of wood and where possible roll items like logs rather than lifting.	1	3	3



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Climbing on top of the den	T - Climbing	Physical injury	2	2	3	6	If children wish to climb on top of their den, whether made of sticks/branches or pallets/planks, the children are asked to assess the safety of their own den (supported by an adult). To check how robust they are, are there sufficient supports in place? Is the material strong enough? If the den is considered safe to climb on, a child may try it out when no-one is inside the den and with the supervision of an adult. The other children can then help assess how safe they think this is and consider what might happen if it collapses. How they could reduce the risk? How could they strengthen the den? Is it safe to climb on when someone is inside? As this activity requires experience in dynamic risk assessment, the Forest School Leader may also be asked to talk to the children about their den and their risk assessment, to help the children (and the supervising adult) decide how safe their proposed activity is.	1	2	2
Building and moving around the den	D1 – branches at eye level	Physical injury	2	2	3	6	The dens are checked for any particularly dangerous branches and the children are made aware of these and the importance of thinking how they move around the dens.	1	3	3
Playing inside the den	J1 - Claustrophobia, fear of the dark	Anxiety and panic	2	1	1	1	The children are given the choice as to whether they wish to play in the dens. If a child wants to go inside the den but feels anxious, extra reassurance and support is given by an adult.	1	1	1
Playing in and around an old den	K1 – falling objects	Physical injury	2	2	1	2	During the pre-session risk assessment the dens are checked for safety and the children alerted if a particularly big den has become particularly unstable and needs repair work	1	1	1
Den dismantling	K1 – falling objects	Physical injury	2	2	1	2	The children are taught how to assess and manage risk. In groups we discuss what they need to consider when dismantling (or erecting) a den.  The adults will ensure that no children are in a den while it is being dismantled.	1	1	1