



Forest School Site Risk Assessment

Venue:	Hullard Park
Assessment carried out by:	Abigail Reid
Signature:	
Date:	

Description of site

Hullard Park: 49 Henrietta St, Old Trafford, Stretford, Manchester M16 9JG. Located at Grid Reference SJ822961.

Hullard Park is a well-used community park in the urban area of Old Trafford, which is situated in the north of the borough of Trafford. It is a roughly rectangular site bounded by Stanley Road to the north, Park Avenue to the south, Northumberland Road to the west and Henrietta Street to the east. There are scenic paths around the meadows and across the park where you can enjoy the wildflowers. There is also a play park where you can extend your day out with children. Within the park there are avenues of mature trees, a wildflower meadow, a hidden garden (formerly the wildlife pond) a compost area and a woodland footpath leading from the Stanley Road entrance. There is also an under-fives playground, quite a few seating areas, a football pitch and flower beds. The park is also host to a veteran's bowling club. It is managed by Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council and regularly maintained by the volunteer members of the Friends of Hullard Park community group. Regular users of the park include runners and dog walkers.

The park is enclosed by railings and there are three entrances/exits.



Risks travelling to site

Hullard Park is less than a ten-minute walk away from Amaryllis Day Nursey where the children, staff and Forest School Leader will depart from. There are three roads to cross in order to get to the park. One of these roads is a busy road and the other two are side roads.

Hazard	Level of risk	Action proposed	New level of risk	Who will take the action? When?
Children/educators hit by moving vehicle	High	Reinforce road safety rules before departure to site. Children, FS Leader and Educators wear hi-vis vests. Group to cross the road only when it is safe to do so. FS Leader to walk on to the road when crossing to ensure that traffic has stopped, Children and other educators to walk across the road. Staff carry mobile phones and first aid kit in case of emergency. Children, FS Leader and Educators will walk in one large group.	Low	FS leader and Educators, on the day
Nettles – stinging	Low	Children to wear long trousers. Make children aware.	Low	FS leader, prior to visit



Risks on site

Hazard	Level of risk	Action proposed	New level of risk	Who will take the action? When?
Branches at eye level – poking in eye	Low	Warn children. Add a red ribbon to the branch to make it more visible if staying in that area.	Low	FS leader, on the day
Nettles – stinging	Low	Children to wear long trousers. Make children aware. Clear site as appropriate	Low	FS Leader, prior to visit
Operations work happening in the park: mowers, tractors, other operation activity.	Medium	Stay away from any area of the park where any operations activity is taking place. Highlight the dangers to the children and instruct them to keep away. Move children to a safer area of the park if necessary. Children to wear hi-vis vests. Warn children not to go near any machinery or operations take place.	Low	FS Leader, on the day
Fungi – poisoning-	Medium	Inform children and adults of the fungi rules – no touching See handbook for Forest School rules about not picking any plants or flowers. Handwashing routine before eating or drinking and on return to Pre-School. Familiarity with poisonous species.	Low	FS Leader and Educators on the day
Broken glass/needles/litter Risk of - cuts and injuries - infection	Medium	FS Leader and Educators to check for offending material upon arrival and ensure it is safe. Clean up, if possible, contact the local authority parks department if necessary Relocate to another area of the park if unable to make safe	Low	FS Leader and Educators on the day
Dog Faeces Dogs may deposit roundworm eggs (<i>toxocara canis</i>) in their faeces, which become infectious after about three weeks, and can remain so for up to two years	High	FS Leader and Educators carefully inspect the immediate area ahead of where we are walking. Use gloves to clean and wash the contaminated areas of exposed skin or clothing/shoes thoroughly. Have cleansing products available nearby. (E.g. Sterile hand gel, wet wipes, paper towels). If possible move activity to another area.	Low	FS Leader, on the day
Children getting lost or wandering off.	High	Safety briefing at start of session to informs children to stay with the nursery staff and FS Leader and/or within the boundaries set. Educators to ensure that children are in eyesight throughout session. Head counts done at intervals. High staff to children ratio – 1:3 / 1:4	Low	Educators and FS Leader, on the day
Dogs - biting - chasing	Medium	Try to use areas of the park that are not being used by dog walkers. Talk to children about not stroking dogs when they are out. Staff to stay near their key children at all times and to be aware of nearby dogs.	Low	Educators and FS Leader, on the day



Members of the Public - other users of the park, stranger danger.	Low	Set up area for use respecting other users Remind children about 'Stranger Danger' Ensure appropriate leader supervision at all times Allocate small group to each leader	Low	FS leader and Educators
Weather Risk to children and staff of: - sunburn/sunstroke - dehydration - getting wet	Medium	Ensure that all children are wearing sun cream and have hats Check park for shaded areas Ensure that children have access to water on a regular basis Check weather forecasts Take raincoats and boots if required Use rain covers for pushchairs Abandon trip if adverse weather continues	Low	FS leader and Educators
Need for toilet breaks Risk to children (and to a lesser extent staff) of: - wetting or soiling themselves - getting uncomfortable/sore - developing stomach ache	Low	Take spare clothes Take a travel potty Take baby wipes Take alcohol-based hand gel Ensure that all children go to the toilet before embarking on the outing	Low	FS leader and Educators
Hunger/thirst Risk to children of becoming tired and unhappy Risk to children and staff of becoming dehydrated	Low	Take healthy snacks and drinks Children to have snack time at their usual time of day, which will be when we arrive at the park.	Low	FS leader and Educators



Forest School Activity Risk Assessment

Assessment carried out by:	
Signature:	
Date:	

Activity: Making a seed pot and planting seeds

Hazard	Level of risk	Action proposed	New level of risk	Who will take the action? When?
Ingestion of dirt, spores or faecal matter through poor hygiene, leading to infection or upset. Ingestion of inedible seeds or fruit, leading to indigestion or upset.	Low	Provision of hand washing facilities and no food eaten before hands are all cleaned. All tools washed, to prevent spread of disease and rust.	Low	FS Leader and Educators, on the day.

Activity: Making nature bouquets

Hazard	Level of risk	Action proposed	New level of risk	Who will take the action? When?
Cuts, incisions and penetrations from thorns or sticks with sharp edges.	Low	Move around the group and inspect the objects that the children collect and choose to work with. Encourage them to replace objects if absolutely necessary or to handle with care.	Low	FS Leader and Educators, on the day.



Activity: Create a self portrait using natural materials

Hazard	Level of risk	Action proposed	New level of risk	Who will take the action? When?
Cuts, incisions and penetrations from thorns or sticks with sharp points.	Low	Move around the group and inspect the objects that the children collect and choose to work with. Encourage them to replace objects if absolutely necessary or to handle with care.	Low	FS Leader and Educators, on the day

Activity: Making Animal Dens

Hazard	Level of risk	Action proposed	New level of risk	Who will take the action? When?
Running and falling/tripping whilst carrying sticks	Medium	Teach rules on travelling with sticks	Low	FS Leader and Educators, on the day
Collecting hazardous objects	Low	Safety instructions given prior to the activity. Children shown how to lift safely. Children supervised throughout the activity with FS Leader and Educators nearby. Site inspected throughout for harmful material. Children made aware what they can and can't collect. FS Leader and Educators to continually check working areas for glass, faeces, litter etc	Low	FS Leader and Educators, on the day

Activity: Tataki-zomé/Flower pounding

Hazard	Level of risk	Action proposed	New level of risk	Who will take the action? When?
Bumps and grazes to the person using the mallet and those nearby.	Medium	Adult-assisted activity only Children take turns 'Tool talk' for all children – instructions on proper use Hammers to be counted in and out each session One to one supervision Used in designated area only Other children to stay clear of tools	Low	FS Leader and Educators, on the day



Activity:

Hazard	Level of risk	Action proposed	New level of risk	Who will take the action? When?

Activity:

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Activity: Organised games

Hazard	Level of risk	Action proposed	New level of risk	Who will take the action? When?
Running and tripping e.g. over fallen branches, tree stumps – grazes, falls, twisted ankle, etc	High	Restrict game area to zone with no trip hazard. Children to wear well-fitting and safe shoes for the setting	Low	FS leader, on the day
Tripping if blindfolded – grazes, falls, twisted ankle etc	High	Game rules to be explained. Use a safe zone with no trip hazards for the game. Make sure children are guided correctly.	Low	FS leader, on the day

The risks are within acceptable levels, but all control measures should be followed to keep risks to a minimum. The person responsible for ensuring compliance with control measures is the Forest School Leader.



Forest School Daily Risk Assessment Checklist

Venue:	
Assessment carried out by:	
Signature:	
Date of session:	

Task	Yes/No
Read site risk assessment	
Read activity risk assessments related to today's activities	
Identify hazards today and carry out risk mitigation activities, communicating to all leaders	
Nominate First Aider	
Provide location of first aid kit	
Review site safety map and emergency plan to identify emergency vehicle access	
Share emergency mobile phone numbers with leaders as appropriate OR location of nearest public phone/landline	
Create plan for toileting OR share location of nearest toilet	
Designate a deputy leader in case the Forest School leader is unavailable in the moment to assist	
Collect medical information forms from group members with medical needs	
Tell group members about site boundaries	
Give tool talk to the group if appropriate including use of PPE	
Distribute PPE as required	
Carry out accident reporting procedure in case of accident	

