



Activities, Games Etc. during WAW holiday club sessions

Policy statement

Our activities will depend on the ability and experience of participants. Examples of Forest School activities may include:

- ✚ Nature exploration
- ✚ Building dens and other structures
- ✚ Fires and cooking (on the last session)
- ✚ Games and invitations for imaginative play
- ✚ Natural crafts
- ✚ Using tools, such as palm drills and saws
- ✚ Scavenger hunts and adventure
- ✚ Seasonal activities and celebrations



Procedures

During WAW holiday activities due care and attention will be paid at all times to the children's safety and well-being.

- ✚ Children will be reminded of safety procedures at the start of each session and new safety rules will be added as they go along for new games and activities.
- ✚ The children will be briefed on issues such as people entering our site, dog walkers, wild animals.
- ✚ The children should be encouraged to conduct a generic site risk assessment with their leader on arrival at the site and before entering the designated area.
- ✚ They will be taught to avoid trip, slip and fall hazards and to conserve the areas we are using.
- ✚ Where appropriate specific risk assessments will be undertaken for individual activities and games.

Specific boundaries to every day play activities in the woods

- Picking up and playing with sticks - Children can carry sticks shorter than their arm's length but make sure they think about how close they are to other children, longer sticks can be dragged or carried with a child at both end; 'if it's bigger than you its gonna need two'. Sticks must not be thrown, nor should children be allowed to pull them from living trees.

- Picking up and playing with stones - Making patterns with pretty stones and even 'gentle' throwing are fine but make sure children are thinking of others and don't throw them with force at anything.



Tree climbing - Adult:child ratio must be 1:1 check ground cover for sharp objects and check 'climbing trees' for loose and rotten braches. Children are allowed to explore to their own limits but adults should be near enough to catch if one should fall but far enough away not t be invasive. Don't let children climb higher than your arm reach or chest height. Adults should not encourage children to climb out of their comfort zone and before they start climbing remind them that coming down is sometimes trickier than going up and they need to plan for this too.

Rope and string use - Encourage connecting and transporting materials. Prevent tying up other children or themselves. If a child has a good idea and wants, for example, to try to build a rope swing, do help them and use the chance to model appropriate knot tying.

Carrying and transporting materials - The children should be encouraged to roll, lift, drag and pull materials, either by hand or using ropes. The safe way to lift, by bending your knees and keeping a straight back should be modelled by all adults, heavier objects can be rolled , dragged or carried by more people.



Digging - Children love digging and this usually fine in designated areas. We will show children how to look carefully and their habitats using lolly sticks ad fingers.

Collecting natural objects - There is a high enjoyment factor clearly evident when working with natural materials as it allows learning to take place in a very creative and free way. We will encourage participants to collect wood and plants/flowers that have been naturally damaged. Making use of natural clay will also take place Point out poisonous plants/trees and have a not touching tasting policy for all of these plants/trees

Signed; <i>Janine Young</i>	date; 10/7/17	review date;10/7/19 10/7/21
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