

FIreflies Forest School

COVID-19 Risk Benefit Assessment



July 10, 2020

**A close up of a logo

Description automatically generatedCOVID-19 Risk Assessment Fireflies Forest School**

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| **Name of person completing Risk Assessment** | Jessica Brocklebank | **Date and time completed** | 10th July 2020 |
| **Description of work area being assessed** | Fireflies forest school site at Hinchingbrooke Country Park | | |
| **Description of activity being assessed** | COVID19 protection measures to allow reopening of site for children to attend Forest School sessions while following government guidelines and other (FSA, CCC) advice. | | |

Being outdoors in nature reduces stress, keeps immunity strong, builds resilience and a sense of community and keeps us physically healthy.

The FSA believes that due to the nature of Forest School sessions and facilitating the play needs of the children and young people, the most appropriate precaution which can be taken is to create and maintain learner ‘bubbles’. This means that equipment, resources and the environment can be shared within each ‘bubble’ without significant risk.

Children can be infected with CoV-2, and become ill with COVID-19. However, they appear to be less susceptible to infection than adults and their symptoms are generally milder. Early indications (from the W.H.O) suggest that there is less transmission from children to adults

L: Likelihood C: consequence R:Risk:

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| **Hazard** | **Current risk rating** | | | **Who might be harmed?** | **How might they be harmed?** | **Measures that will be in place, some will already be in place, some are new measures.** | **New risk rating** | | | **Action monitored by whom/when?** |
|  | L | C | R |  | | | L | C | R |
| Spread of COVID-19 from attending sessions | 2 | 4 | 8 | Children Staff Volunteers Visitors Family Members Friends | Infection of COVID-19, mild, serious or fatal symptoms can occur. | We will purchase 4 sets of full PPE for use either in a first aid emergency when we may no longer be able to follow the 2meter social distancing guidelines or in the even a child may present COVID-19 symptoms during the session. A visor, apron and gloves will be available for staff. This will also be used in the event of a first aid emergency.  Where appropriate staff will wear a visor to support children with tools.  All children and staff are welcome to use face masks if they wish but it will NOT be a requirement, except in the above situations (first aid or cooking)  All children in our sessions will be shown how far 2 metres is. They will be reminded to keep 2 metres away from each other as much as possible, but particularly from adults. All staff will be aware that they must keep 2m from the children as much as possible. If there’s a situation when 2m is not possible for example a first aid situation or when supporting a child using a tool, a visor or mask will be worn by the adult. We have a huge amount of space in our site so this should not be a challenge. Our log circle will also be widened to ensure when children are sitting around the fire, they remain 2metres apart. Parents will be reminded of social distancing when they drop children off and these will also be staggered.  Parents will be given guidance regarding this and will be reminded to read the guidance themselves too. All parents will be asked to read a list of agreements before booking their child into any sessions and to agree to guidance around this. All staff will also be expected to follow government guidance around self-isolating if they or their families are showing symptoms. All staff and parents will be reminded that if they have recently returned from abroad to check government guidance around how long they may need to quarantine for.  The pre check will ask questions to ensure he child or family are not experiencing any Coronavirus symptoms, and if they are to not attend.  (Forest School Association recognises that as in schools, social distancing is not practical during FS sessions, but that the overall risk of infection must be less due to the outdoor nature of FS and the smaller group sizes.)  *“The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. (1m from 4th July 2020)”* | 1 | 4 | 4 | All Staff |
| Transmission of Covid-19 whilst cooking | 1 | 2 | 4 |  |  | Masks will be worn by any member of staff cooking. Usual hand hygiene and food hygiene will be followed. All food will be served in the children’s bowls and spoons brought from home and will only be handled by the child. The food will be poured/served and then the child will collect their bowl/plate. Utensils will be used rather than hands touching food when possible. All food will be cooked to boiling. | 1 | 4 | 4 | Staff |
| Catching COVID-19 due to being exposed to various groups of children | 2 | 4 | 8 |  |  | We will be offering sessions whereby parents book a series of sessions; these children will then form a bubble that they will remain in for the whole summer (or for as long as their block booking lasts). Siblings will attend sessions together. Staff will also be attached to bubbles of children and will also work with the same group as much as possible.  Group sizes will not exceed 15 children in any sessions.  We will request that parents do not send children to other summer camp providers in-between their sessions with us.  Parents will not be able to pay on the day or join a session on the day. All bookings must be made in advance.  *“Providers should ensure,* ***as far as possible,*** *that they are keeping children* *and young people in small consistent groups”*  *“Early years children will not need to be kept in small consistent groups from 20th July”* | 1 | 4 | 4 | Children and their families, staff. |
| Contracting the virus from touch points, resources or cross contamination | 2 | 4 | 8 |  |  | We will endeavour to have at least 24 hours in-between sessions, however there may be occasions where we have 2 sessions in one day.  We will ensure any resources used are cleaned down, hammocks will be changed, and hand washing facilities topped up in-between sessions.  Parents will be given pick up points so that half the group are collected from each point and pick up times will be staggered.  We will make clear to parents that they cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the site (unless they have a prearranged appointment, which should be conducted safely)  We will put all resources that have been used in a separate wheelbarrow so that everything can be cleaned before the next session. Ropes will be used for one bubble and then left for a minimum of 72 hour before used again, it will also be sprayed with antibacterial spray and hosed down.  All areas of tippy taps that are touched, resources such as pots and pans, any tools, fire strikers, wheelbarrow handles, storage box lids Will be cleaned using detergent between uses.    Using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water. Then disinfect these surfaces. | 1 | 4 | 4 | Staff |
| Transmission of COVID-19 from poor hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene or used tissues. | 2 | 4 | 8 |  |  | Before all children enter the site they will be asked to wash their hands or if their hands are clean, they will have the option to use hand sanitizer. If their hands are muddy they cannot apply hand sanitizer only.  Cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly. Children will be shown how to use the tippy taps and reminded throughout the session.  Tippy taps, spa taps and hand sanitizer will be encouraged throughout the session, and on entry, exit and before food. Although if hands are muddy, they must be washed before hand sanitizer is applied. Muddy hands will not be cleaned with hand sanitizer alone and must be cleaned with soap. Children will be shown how to use these and will be explained in a calm and sensitive way why it is crucial they are used throughout the session.  Bins with lids will be provided, used tissues will be put into one bin which is emptied and cleaned in-between sessions.  Children and staff will have their own hand towel from home to dry their hands with. Paper towels will also be available. | 1 | 4 | 4 | Children and Staff. Staff will frequently remind children. |
| Not following guidance to remain 2m apart/Social distancing. | 2 | 4 | 8 |  |  | Leaders will not PLAN for physical contact games e.g. hunters & rabbits, chasing, tagging, sardines, den building, rough and tumble play, group cooking, role play which might involve contact.  Log circle will be widened  Staggered drop offs  Children will be spaced out when sat for their lunch and in the log circle  Although social distancing will be encouraged by all the children there may be occasions they forget or do not stick to 2metres, for example when playing. All staff will remain 2m from the children when possible. Once a child is assigned to their bubble it will not be compulsory for all children to remain 2m from each other, at all times, although it will be recommended.  *“Early years and primary children cannot be expected to remain 2m away from each other and staff.”*    “Where settings can keep children and young people in those small groups 2 metres away from each other, they should do so.” (1m+ from 4th July 2020, if 2m is not possible)” | 1 | 4 | 4 | Staff |
| Children who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. | 2 | 5 | 10 |  |  | We will remind all families to act in accordance to government guidance around this and to consult their own Doctor or medical professionals. We will not give advice on whether it is safe for you to attend a session or not. Although we are implementing all possible measures to keep our sessions as safe as possible, we cannot guarantee anything, so we would recommend following government guidance and advice from your doctor regarding whether you should attend. | 1 | 5 | 5 | Staff and Parents |
| Parents forming a group or not socially distancing at drop off, increasing the chances of COVID-19. | 2 | 4 | 8 |  |  | Parents advised to maintain 2m (1m from 4th July 2020) at drop off. Parents asked not to go in the site. Staggered drop offs. Parents will be given a 15-minute time period to drop their children off and collect, this will minimize all parents dropping off and collecting at once.    When our Twiglets or Parent stay and play sessions resume some parents will want/need to remain present at the session. Parents will be present as a spectator rather than part of the session. Therefore, we will encourage all parents to sit in the log circle or parent area whilst the session is happening. We will plan activities and have resources to support this. Promoting and building independence and confidence is also part of our ethos and core aims. Only 1 parent may attend per family as we need to keep the number of adults in a session to a minimum. Ideally, this should be the same parent each week when possible. | 1 | 4 | 4 |  |
| A child or staff member displaying COVID-19 symptoms during the session. | 1 | 4 | 4 |  |  | When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario and then follow guidance from the test and trace service.    As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England’s local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise us on the most appropriate action to take.    “Government guidance is that Parents, carers and settings do not need to take children’s temperatures every morning. Routine testing of an individual’s temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus”  If anyone in the household develops a fever or a new continuous cough they are advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance (which states that the ill person should remain in isolation for 7 days and the rest of the household in isolation for 14 days).    All parents will need to agree to their details being passed onto the track and trace service if they are requested. | 1 | 4 | 4 |  |
| Using public transport | 2 | 4 | 8 |  |  | We strongly advise not to lift share or take public transport. Where possible either cycle, walk, or travel in your car as a single family. If public transport is needed, please follow government guidance and wear a face covering. | 1 | 4 | 4 |  |
| Toilets becoming overcrowded | 2 | 4 | 8 |  |  | Two adults will walk the child to the public toilets at Hinchingbrooke Country Park. Only 1 cubicle is open with 1 sink so the child will be the only person in the toilet block. The adults will remain on the outside of the building. Only one child will go to the toilet block at once. The toilets are regularly cleaned by rangers. | 1 | 4 | 4 |  |
| Crafts taken home spreading the virus. | 1 | 4 | 4 |  |  | No resources or craft products can be taken home.    Bags and personal items will be kept away from others.  No tools can be brought from home. Only tools owned by Fireflies Forest School will be used, these will be washed and sanitized in-between uses, hands will also be washed before any tools are handled. | 1 | 4 | 4 |  |
| In the event of someone in our session beginning to display symptoms. |  |  |  |  |  | Staff will have masks, aprons & gloves. If symptoms become present then the staff will put on PPE, child will be moved to an isolated area and their parents will be asked to collect the child immediately. The adult remaining with the child will be first aid trained and will remain 2m away.  If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.  PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). |  |  |  |  |

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| Likelihood that the hazardous incident will occur | |
| 1 | Very unlikely |
| 2 | unlikely |
| 3 | Fairly likely |
| 4 | Likely |
| 5 | Very likely |

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| Consequence of hazardous event, should it occur | |
| 1 | Insignificant: no injury |
| 2 | Minor: minor injuries requiring first aid |
| 3 | Moderate: up to 3 days absent |
| 4 | Major: up to 7 days absent |
| 5 | Catastrophic: death |

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| Action level table | |
| 22-25 | STOP – Stop activity and take immediate action |
| 15-16 | URGENT ACTION – Take immediate action and stop activity if necessary, maintain existing controls rigorously |
| 8-12 | ACTION – Improve within specified timescales |
| 3-6 | MONITOR – Look to improve at the next review or if there is a significant change |
| 1-2 | NO ACTION – No further action but ensure controls are maintained and reviewed |

Sources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/guidance-for-providers-of-outdoor-facilities-on-the-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation>

<https://www.outofschoolalliance.co.uk/holiday-clubs-covid19-update?fbclid=IwAR03EBncl34kRs8LyFHfjW2uuYuZcbeifxnN6CXmpWYOBUOBTDimz8U-m4w>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>