



Brown Bear Forest School

Risk Assessment for an Open Fire

The purpose of an open fire is to offer the children an acceptable risk activity to enhance their learning opportunities and own coping strategies. If we only provide a sanitised environment and risk adverse activities children will not explore and discover the world for themselves, they will only experience a safety conscious environment. However safeguards must be in place to ensure the activity is at an appropriate level for their abilities and understanding without turning the activity into a safety first pursuit.

- Encounters with certain types of risk help children to learn how to manage those risks. To help children with this they will first be reminded of the story of fire safety developed by the fire department and safety rules about being beside fire.
- Only children willing to participate will be included in the activity those with fears of fire will have the opportunity to talk to staff for reassurance.
- Children will use a green stick to cook on the open fire (toast, marshmallow).
- Children will be asked questions about the fire, cooking and safety to enhance their understanding.

Hazard	Harm	At Risk	Risk	Existing measures/ new measures	Residual Risk	Who will do it? When?
Fire & heat	burning to skin & clothes	ALL	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision of the fire, one person to be sat beside fire at all times while alight or hot embers remain, to ensure children do not have unsupervised access. • Children will be given rules and safety advice and dangers of fire prior to visiting the fire. • First aiders and first aid box will be available. • Fire proof gloves within easy reach. 	■	FSL to organise staff.
Fire out of control	as above and damage to area.	ALL	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above • Fire will be in a soil pit surrounded by stones to prevent the fire escaping the area. • Fire area will be away from buildings. • The fire will not be under overhanging trees which may catch alight. • A good supply of water will be available to put out flames and dampen heat. • A fire blanket will be available to wrap around person who may be alight. 	■	FSL to check site, all staff responsible for fire control.
Falls into fire	burning to skin & clothes	ALL	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above • Children have a safety brief before entering the fire pit area. • No walking between the seats and fire allowed. • When cooking etc. everyone at fire should be on one knee to remain stable. • Maximum of 4 people at fire (including adults). 	■	FSL - to give safety brief, all staff check rules are followed.

Hazard	Harm	At Risk	Risk	Existing measures/ new measures	Residual Risk	Who will do it? When?
Smoke	inhalation, irritation	ALL	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The position of the fire will be away from buildings. • The wind direction will be constantly assessed and children advised to move safely out of smoke direction. • Dry suitable wood used to prevent excess smoke. • Use clear goggles if needed. 	L	FSL - wood supply & site - all staff advise children
Heat from hot embers.	burning to skin & clothes	ALL	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the fire activity is finished the embers will be dampened and cooled with water and spread out with a spade. 	L	FSL