

## Tool Skills Risk Assessment

Assessment carried out by: Natalie Gafford		Date: 21/06/2021		
Signature: NG				
<b>Experience / Activity: Tool Skills</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) All tool skills activities <b>MUST</b> be risk assessed in advance.</li> <li>2) All equipment and tools must be checked before the session, for cleanliness and safety.</li> <li>3) All equipment must be checked for safety and cleaned at the end of each session before packing them away into a locked kit.</li> <li>4) Bush Craft Instructor to assess the safety and suitability of the site, including weather conditions for the activity.</li> <li>5) First Aid kit, emergency contact details and phone to be easily accessible at all times.</li> <li>6) All activities must be led by a Level Three qualified Forest School Practitioner with at least a 12 hour paediatric or outdoor first aid certificate.</li> <li>7) Children under the age of 3 years are not permitted to join in with tool skills activities.</li> <li>8) All whittling activities must be supervised under a 1:2 ratio.</li> <li>9) All saw activities must be supervised on a 1:1 ratio for children aged 3-8 years and 1:2 for over 8's.</li> <li>10) No power tools to be used.</li> <li>11) Each child to be assessed for their ability to handle tools safely and suitable adjustments made to activities.</li> </ol>				
Activity/Experience	Risk	Risk Level	Control Actions	New level
<i>General tool activities.</i>	<i>Children could cut their skin, severe an artery and severely injure themselves.</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>The Bush Craft Leader must ensure every member of staff understands their responsibilities during tool skill activities providing a safety briefing as outlined below.</i>	<i>Medium</i>
<i>Use of knives for whittling/battening</i>	<i>Children could cut or puncture their skin, potentially causing serious injury and introducing infection.</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Children under the age of eight years to use scout knives with a blunt end to reduce the risk of puncture wounds. Children to wear protective whittling gloves to reduce the risk of cutting their fingers. For individuals whom struggle with fine motor movements, poor strength in their hands or co-ordination issues, the Bush Craft instructor will assist the individual on</i>	<i>Medium</i>

<p><i>Using a bowsaw and pruning saw</i></p>	<p><i>Children could cause serious injury by tripping and falling on the saw, by cutting their own or other children's limbs.</i></p>	<p><i>High</i></p>	<p><i>a one to one basis and support them to access the activity through battening process, where the teacher holds the knife while the student uses a wooden mallet to tap the top of the knife and gently peel away layers of wood, greatly reducing the risk of harm.</i></p> <p><i>All Bowsaw activities will be completed using a saw horse. The children will rest their non-sawing hand behind a wooden partition to reduce the risk of the saw bouncing up and harming the non-saw arm. Any pruning saw activities will be completed with the support of the bush craft instructor.</i></p>	<p><i>Low</i></p>
<p><i>Using palm drills/bit and brace/bradawl</i></p>	<p><i>Could trip and fall on to the drill/bit, could slip and puncture the body.</i></p>	<p><i>Medium</i></p>	<p><i>Discussion about how to safely handle the tools, show the children that the end is sharp and must be pointed away from the body. Children shown how to safely transport drills/bits. Bush Craft Instructor to observe practice and offer support. Children shown appropriate surfaces to use the drills on. Children over the age of six years to work in pairs with the bit and brace, one to hold the top still and the other to turn the brace.</i></p>	<p><i>Low</i></p>
<p><i>Loppers/secateurs/pruners</i></p>	<p><i>Could cut limbs.</i></p>	<p><i>Medium</i></p>	<p><i>Children instructed on safe tool use, children reminded to use these at a safe distance from their limbs and other people. Staff to support and observe practice.</i></p>	<p><i>Low</i></p>

<i>Mallets</i>	<i>Bruises</i>		<i>Children instructed on the safe use of mallets, to work within a safe distance of onlookers.</i>	<i>Low</i>
Covid - 19	Covid – 19 is a highly contagious virus prevalent in the UK with devastating short- and long-term effects to the health and wellbeing of millions of people. This is particularly concerning for vulnerable children and adults, as well as the elderly. Nevertheless, this poses risk to all children, adults and families that participate in group activities. For health and safety reasons fire work and cookery often require children and staff to work in close proximity, meaning social distancing measures will not be possible during some of this work and transmission would be a higher risk than during activities where social distancing measures can be maintained.	<i>High</i>	Please see Area risk assessment for general covid risk assessment. Wherever, possible, reasonably practicable and safe to do so, staff will practice social distancing from children during the duration of the club. For any activities where it would be unsafe to practice social distancing additional safety measures will be put in place; during any activity that requires tool use, children and staff will be required to wash their hands prior to starting their activity, before consuming any goods cooked on the fire and to generally practice good hygiene skills. Activities that require close working will be reduced in frequency and staff will wear a face covering. All close contact activities will be outdoors only. All tools will be cleaned at the beginning and at the end of the session, after the bubble has used them. Portable hand washing facilities will be available for children and adults to use at all times.	<i>Medium</i>

Tool safety briefing; will be delivered before tool skill exercises. This safety briefing will include an introduction to the term ‘blood bubble’ namely the area measured from the child’s body to the end of their tool when their arm is outstretched. Children are instructed never to enter the blood bubble area of a child or adult using tools. Children will be shown how to sheath their tools before transporting them anywhere. All tools to be counted in at the end of the session.