

Risk-Benefit Assessment: Ropes and Knots

Assessment Undertaken By: Kathryn Day (Headteacher)

Date: 03 January 2024

Assessment Approved By: Trevor Watson (Health and Safety Lead)

Date: 18 January 2024

Activity with Significant Hazard, Events and Consequences Identified	Benefits	Risk Level S x L = RR	L M H	List Groups of People Who Are Especially at Risk from the Hazards	Control Measures	Residual Risk Rating S x L = RR	L M H
Balance lines; rope bridges; rope swings; hammocks; shelters – bruises, cuts, broken bones, friction burns, head injuries from: snapped ropes; failed knots; snapped or bent tree branches; falls from rope bridges, swings or hammocks; bumping into other people, trees or other obstacles; damage to limbs by rope wrapping around or strangulation should rope go around neck.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making risk judgements and managing risk. • Improved strength, balance and coordination. • Group work and cooperation when working together to construct bridges and swings. • Learning about materials and making appropriate selections based on strength and suitability. • Building resilience through risk taking, success and challenge. • Promotes development of vestibular (balance) sense. 	5 x 5 = 25	H	Children Staff Visitors to School	General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to <i>Health and Safety Code of Practice – Ropes and Knots</i>. • Ensure children are taught a range of knots and that these are checked by an adult prior to use. • Ropes to be checked for wear and tear regularly and replaced as needed. • Dynamic risk assessment carried out throughout activity. • Staff with appropriate first aid training always present and well-stocked first aid kit available. • Staff to check any trees to be used and, if there is any sign of weakness, avoid using this tree. • Ensure children are taught about safety and choosing an appropriate place for their ropes and knots. • Group members to be given clear instruction and 	5 x 2 = 10	M

				<p>modelling of how to use ropes safely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear landing area under ropes to remove obstacles. • Ropes tight enough to prevent wrapping around body. • Loose ended ropes to be avoided. <p>Rope Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children taught about safety when moving across rope bridge. • Rope bridges will be lower than head height and usually between ankle and hip height. <p>Rope Swing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that the children are taught the safety points of using a rope swing – clear distance around swing and direction of use. • Give regular warnings about vigilance when moving around the working area and when swinging. • Swings to be tested prior to use. • Feet on ropes will be lower than head height in full swing. • Children taught to step off rather than jump. <p>Ropes for Hammocks and Shelters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ropes to be brightly coloured or tied with ribbons or branches with leaves so that they can be clearly seen against the background in the environment. 	
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Successful Learners ~ Confident Individuals ~ Responsible Citizens



					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children alerted to the need to be vigilant for ropes and reminded of these throughout session. 		
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SEVERITY	LIKELIHOOD	RISK RATING (S x L)	
1 = No injury or illness	1 = Very remote	14+	High
2 = First Aid injuries or illness	2 = Improbable		
3 = Minor injury or illness – up to 3 days away	3 = Possible	5 – 13	Medium
4 = 3+ days injury or illness	4 = Probable		
5 = Major injury or illness	5 = Likely	1 – 4	Low
6 = Fatal or disabling injury or illness	6 = Certainty		

Reviewed By	Review Date
Kathryn Day	12/10/2024