

# Muddy Church Risk Assessment

Hazards / Risks	Level	Control / Actions	Risk Benefits
Exploring the site Uneven ground, branches and trees roots on the ground. Branches and shrubs at eye level	Medium	Children are responsible to their guardian's supervision. Children well supervised, awareness talks and reminders. There will always be at least 2 members of staff both first aid trained with a First aid kit and mobile phone.	Promoting physical development and awareness of the difference in surroundings. Encouraging children to be self-aware and support their peers. Supporting each other and working with family members.
Missing child A child may wander off or go missing during a Church session.	Low	Children told and asked to repeat boundaries. Guardians of the child/ren are responsible for their child's safety. Church volunteers create extra ratio to help find child if needed.	Children to realise the importance of following rules and working as a group. Building relationships and trusting each other.
Bites and stings from bees / wasps and stinging nettles.	Low	Warn not to catch bees / wasps and be aware of stinging nettles. Long trousers and closed footwear to be advised. Nettles will be made aware to all participants. Children are responsibility of their guardian.	Opportunity to study how different insects move around. Displaying a positive approach to insects rather than being frightened of them. Be guided by the bible story of insects and our world.
Allergies or children's existing conditions.	Low	First aider /Lead staff to be aware of any known allergies or existing conditions and be aware of treatment required. Guardians are responsible for their child. First Aider accessible during session.	Promote knowledge and independence in identifying and avoiding allergens.
Weather – Hot and Cold	Low	Muddy Church will continue in ALL reasonable weather Conditions. Families will be expected to come dressed suitably for the environment.	Promote knowledge of weather conditions and clothing required – wellingtons/Sun cream/hats etc.
Mushrooms and fungi	Low	Ensure children do not eat anything they find and keep their hands out of their mouths and wash them thoroughly after the session. Obvious mushrooms to be made aware of. Guardians are to be responsible for their child/ren.	Promote knowledge and independence in identifying and avoiding mushrooms and fungi. Identify similarities to foods bought and eaten.

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Poisonous Plants	Low	Site to be inspected prior to sessions, staff to be aware of poisonous plants and children not to pick anything that's living and growing, keep fingers out of their mouths. Guardians are responsible for their child/ren. Attendees will be made aware of any poisonous plants prior to the session starting.	Promote knowledge and independence in identifying and avoiding poisonous plants. Understanding the natural world and what they mustn't touch.
Building dens or other activities using sticks and branches – risk of sharp objects.	Low	Children to be aware of dangers and carry / hold sticks carefully being aware of others around them. Injuries / accidents to be dealt with accordingly (Named first aider/s) Guardians are responsible for their child/ren.	Opportunity to work as a team safely, to problem solve and scaffold each other. Opportunities to develop motor skills, practice knots and develop social skills.
Animal droppings	Low	Children to be made aware not to touch or pick up any animal droppings. Hands to be cleaned and anti bac gel to be used. Guardians are responsible for their child/ren.	To help children/adults to identify animals from their droppings and other traits. To understand the importance of hygiene.
Falling branches	Low	Site checked regularly to ensure no fallen or dangerous branches. Guardians are responsible for their child/ren.	Children/adults to learn to risk assess for themselves.
Using string	Low	Children to be instructed how to use string to make dens and tie sticks together. Close supervision from their Guardian. Volunteers to be on hand for support and guidance.	Practicing knots and learning new skills involving following instructions. Encourages creativity
Sharp branches and thorns	Medium	Children/adults to be aware, any cuts or injuries to be dealt with on site. Larger cuts / more serious injuries to be dealt with by the first aider. In the event of severe injuries 999 to be called. Guardians are responsible for their child/ren.	Children/adults to be self-aware identify dangers and scaffold peers. Encourages self confidence in a new and sensory environment.

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Cooking food	High	As fire lighting & camp fire. Children will be shown the correct way to kneel whilst cooking on an open fire. Any food cooked will be under close supervision with the adult cooking the food and ensuring it is cooled before the children eat it. Guardians are solely responsible for their child/ren.	See lighting and camp fire. Children learn about cooking and being independent as well as learning life skills. Encourages creativity.
Hot Drinks/cold drinks	Medium	Hot drinks, served throughout the session in cups with lids. Adults to ensure drinks are at the right temperature for their child to drink and to reduce chance of an accident by finishing their own hot drink as soon as possible.	Added enjoyment to the session, cold drinks provided for children to ensure hydration, especially in hot weather
Small tools Potato peelers, knives, saws,	High	Safety talk given and repeated. Close supervision. Lead adult on activity. Guardians are responsible for their child/ren.	Building confidence and gaining new experiences.
Fire lighting & camp fire.	High	Safety talk given prior to lighting each fire with reminder of rules for the fire circle, children asked to say / repeat the rules to ensure they have understood them. Fire circle laid out with clear boundaries, children only go in the fire circle when invited by the nominated adult on a 1:1 basis. Water is always available at the side of the fire and sticks etc to be collected before the fire is lit. Gloves used when needed. Children to sit on logs/planks or stand with parents whilst the fire is lit. Guardians are responsible for their child/ren.	Development of awareness and respect of fire. Working as a team and building trusting relationships and self-confidence. Children learn to be aware of danger and risk take as well as learning how to light and maintain a fire safely. Gaining new experiences that empower them to use their initiative and enjoy the natural environment. Supports mathematical development, sizes and sorting. Bible stories/ songs of togetherness.

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Fallen/Broken Wall bricks	low	Children/adults to be aware, any cuts or injuries to be dealt with on site. Larger cuts / more serious injuries to be dealt with by the first aider. In the event of severe injuries 999 to be called. Guardians are responsible for their child/ren.	Children/Adults to be self-aware, identify dangers and scaffold peers. Encourages self confidence in a new and sensory environment. Children/Adults to use materials in productive ways.
Wild Animal contact/Bite	Low	Adult supervision. Children are responsible to their guardian. First Aider/s to be informed of this risk before the session starts.	Learning about wildlife. Working together to manage risk. Learning about animals from the bible. Bible stories.
People hurting/damaging other people or children.	Low	Volunteers/staff to encourage safety. First Aider/s Safety introductions. Guardians responsible for their child/ren.	Learning to work with others. Learning to support individuals. Love thy neighbour.
COVID 19	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hand –washing areas</li> <li>- Masks advised on close contact activities.</li> <li>- If any participants are feeling unwell with COVID 19 symptoms they are asked to miss the session.</li> <li>- Numbers of participants regulated.</li> <li>- Outdoor church.</li> </ul>	Children and adults to practice good hygiene practices.