

Risk Benefit Assessment for Den / Shelter Building

Benefit of Experience:

1. Sharing skills with children and young people regarding building Dens and safe use of tools.
2. Learning how to tie a variety of knots.
3. Den Building required good communication skills, negotiation skills, teamwork, increasing self esteem and self confidence.
4. Children learn the risks associated with building shelters and how to mitigate against these risks.
5. For many children and young people Den Building will be a new, exciting and rewarding activity and a new experience.
6. Den Building will encourage specific play types, (e.g. socio dramatic play).
7. Each child or young person can have a role in building a den, ensuring that all are able to make a positive contribution.
8. Building dens is part of everybody’s history and culture and by providing this experience, we are continuing tradition.
9. This experience will help to develop self belief and a sense of achievement.
10. Children and Young people will learn outdoor survival techniques / skills.

Steps	Hazard / Risk	Risk Rating (Likely hood x Severity)	Action to Control Risk	Revised Risk Rating	Responsible person
Select appropriate area to build a Den	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trip hazards, children and young people falling. • Tools creating trip hazard / accident 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid kit present. • Safety talks to be held with children and young people. • Ensure that the area selected is free of trip hazards and has been ground checked prior to commencing. • Ensure tools are kept together in a designated location. 	Low	Play Worker
Brief children and young people about building dens, the potential risks and avoiding them.	-	-	-	-	-
Collect wood, bamboo, cardboard, blocks, rope and any other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp branches, nails or splinters in wood / bamboo 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid kit in place. • Staff ensure that all wood is free of nails & particularly dangerous 	Low	Play Worker, children and young people

materials required to create the den.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collected. Children carrying items inappropriately and falling onto wood / tripping. Wood poking children and young people in the eye. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sharp branches are removed prior to activity. Conduct safety talk; Discuss appropriate method for carrying wood (in particular dragging logs rather than trying to carry them). Ensure children check wood is safe to use (e.g. no sharp branches). Suggest appropriate area to store materials and tools. Appropriate supervision levels to be in place. 		responsible for safety.
<p>Build the Den. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> using cardboard boxes as shelters, using rope, bamboo and tarpaulin using rope, loose wood and tarpaulin Using building blocks Using washing lines and sheets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structures falling on children and young people. Children and young people hurting others while carrying wood. Risk of retractable washing lines catching children's eyes. Strangulation with rope 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be covered in safety talk; Discuss team work, being aware of where others are working, not entering the den until it is complete. Discuss risks associated with each building material. Constant communication. Appropriate supervision in place. 	Low	Play worker, children and young people.
Attach tarpaulin to the Den if required (using rope).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strangulation Falling 	Medium-Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover in safety talk. Appropriate supervision levels to be in place. 	Low	Playworker, children
Decorate den using paint / loose parts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paint in eyes Ingesting and inhaling paint 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover in safety talk. Use child friendly paint. Appropriate supervision levels to 	Low	Playworker

			be in place. • First aid kit in place with eye bath.		
Take den apart and pack away, leaving no trace of activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dens falling on children and young people. • Children and young people hurting others while carrying wood. 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover in safety talk; Discuss team work, not entering the den while it is being taken down, communicating. • Appropriate supervision in place. • First aid kit in place. 	Low	Playworker and children