

Risk Benefit Assessment for Den / Shelter Building

Benefit of Experience:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharing skills with children and young people regarding building shelters 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 and developing new experiences. 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"> • Ensure that the area selected is free of trip hazards and has been ground checked prior to commencing. • Safety talks to be held with children and young people. • First Aid kit and first aider present. • 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.	-	-	-	-	-

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<p>Collect wood, bamboo, cardboard, blocks, rope and any other materials required to create the den.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp branches, nails or splinters in wood / bamboo collected. • Children carrying items inappropriately and falling onto wood / tripping. • Wood poking children and young people in the eye. 	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid kit in place. • Staff ensure that all wood is free of nails & particularly dangerous 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. 	<p>Low</p>	<p>Play Worker, children and young people responsible for safety.</p>
<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 	<p>High</p>	<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. 	<p>Low</p>	<p>Play worker, children and young people.</p>
<p>Attach tarpaulin to the Den if required (using rope).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strangulation • Falling 	<p>Medium-Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover in safety talk. • Appropriate supervision levels to be in place. 	<p>Low</p>	<p>Playworker, children</p>

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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 (school safe) • Appropriate supervision levels to be in place. • First aid kit in place with eye bath. 	Low	Playworker
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