

Green wood work risk assessment

April 2011

Staff members: Ian Varley 1: 4 ratio (children will work in pairs)
Support staff : Teacher accompanying children
Client name: Leicestershire County Council
Insurance: £2,5000 million Public liability
CRB : Enhanced and current CRB are in place
 obtained March Nov 2010 (Staffordshire) Nov 2009 (Leicester City)
Mobile Contact No: 07828772499
First Aid: Instructor will use staff at venue

Description of activity:

This risk assessment covers all tools which may be used in the process of running a green wood work session with school age children. The sessions will mostly take place outdoors, under a temporary outdoor shelter. Equipment that will be used includes: shaving horse; draw knife; froes; hand drill; bill hooks; bow saws etc.

Hazard	Harm	Preventative measures
Weather conditions shelter	Children could be exposed to bad weather conditions or strong sunlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessions will be run under a temporary shelter that will be erected prior to start of sessions. The shelter will be inspected to ensure it is safe and weather proof. There will be some guide ropes that will be pointed out with the use of signs.
All dangers associated with green wood working	Injury, slipping, tripping, injury to others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor to closely monitor tool usage throughout the session • Instructor to teach skills for identifying and avoiding hazards, reduce hazards as much as possible, cancel activity if instructor assesses that hazards are present where risk of harm cannot be minimised (e.g. if contractors are on site). • Instructors to ensure participants follow procedures for use of tools (outlined in tool talk). • Instructor to ensure participants work at least 2 arms lengths away from anyone else. • Instructor to ensure that participants do not wear a glove on tool-using hand. • Instructor to provide PPE (Leather aprons) where necessary to give protection against injury.

Splinters safety	Injury to self and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green wood will naturally splinter. The instructor will take measures to inspect the piece of wood that is given to each participant to use and will not give participants wood which is deemed to be unsafe.
Use of tools	Injury, slipping, tripping, injury to others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tools to be kept in tool box in designated area when not being used. Participants to wear fully covered shoes. Tool box to be kept locked by instructor when using particularly dangerous tools such as knives. Participants to be shown by instructor how to position and reposition the tool and how to hold and manipulate each tool correctly and safely.
Using draw knives	Injury to self and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors to inform participants that they must always use draw knives on a piece of thick card, hardboard or similar material. Instructor to store the knives safely in a tool box and ensure that participants place knives back in tool box when not in use. Instructor to have counted tools prior to session and check same numbers of tools are returned to instructor at end of session. Instructor to ensure participants are informed that they must remain in a static position when using sharp tools. Instructor to ensure that knives are sharp as blunt knives can increase risk of injury. Instructor to monitor how participants are using tools throughout the session.
Using a hand drill	Injury to self and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to ensure that participants always drill on wood stumps to make it safe.
Using abrasive paper	Dust in eyes, mouth, injury to self and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to ensure that abrasive papers are used in a safe manner and make sure that participants are not sanding too close to eyes and mouth. If paper is ripped, instructor to ensure that participants are informed to take care not to cut fingers/hands.
Tool safety at end of session		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor will collect and count all tools while participants are sitting in their chairs before they leave.

Note: During green wood working session, we try to be as natural as possible by not using any electrical tools. We use a small selection of simple hand tools which make green wood working sessions as safe as possible.

Ian Varley April 2011