

Into The Woods outdoor nursery
Tree Climbing Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment: Climbing							
Location: Queens Wood and Highgate Wood, Muswell Hill Road, London N10		Name: Into The woods outdoor nursery – all staff			Date: March 2021		Review: March 2023
Benefit statement: Children develop self confidence, self esteem, gross motor and fine motor skills, language and communication skills. They learn about judging risks, being part of a community, and develop positive attitudes to learning.							
Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Probability	Severity	Rating	Measures taken	Who is responsible?
Falling from a tree, landing on something hard or pointed, branches, falling onto someone from above	Concussion,	Children climbing trees and those underneath	1	4	4	<p>'Test before you climb'- Children are taught basic risk assessment. Along with a teacher, the children test the structure, den, fallen tree etc before they climb. Together they take into account any factors that may make a tree /structure etc more or less safe – eg, type/size/strength of branches, type of leaves, distribution of branches and ease of climbing, surface of the trunk and branches, if the branches move, the ground below the tree.</p> <p>Climbing dens is not allowed if other children are playing below</p> <p>Children should not climb higher than 2 metre</p> <p>Weather conditions are taken into consideration as surfaces can be slippery.</p> <p>Children are taught not to put weight on any branch thinner than their wrist.</p> <p>Children are taught how to recognise dead branches.</p> <p>If the staff member judges that the tree is not safe, children are not allowed to climb.</p> <p>Supervising staff never lift children up a tree. The</p>	Teachers
	Broken bones		1	4	4		
	Twigs or branches going through skin		1	4	4		
	Twigs or branches going into eyes		1	5	5		
	Teeth being knocked or knocked out		1	4	4		
	Head bump		2	3	6		
	Bumps and bruises to other parts of the body		2	2	4		
Feet getting trapped between branches	Twisted or broken foot or ankle		1	3	3		

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Sharp, pointy branches or twigs	Scrapes and scratches		3	2	6	<p>children should only get as high as they can independently.</p> <p>Children are taught how to get down independently from a tree.</p> <p>Under 3's and those new to tree climbing have 1:1 supervision from an adult.</p> <p>Small groups of over 3s, who are more experienced at climbing, are supervised by an adult close by. The supervising adult will intervene when the climbing becomes too risky.</p> <p>Children are taught to always have 3 limbs on a tree when climbing, Eg, 2 hands+1 leg or 2 legs + 1 hand</p> <p>Children are taught to: Test before they climb (adult support at first) - climb slowly. - assess the branches around before making their next move. - close supervision (see above) to prevent risky or dangerous moves or positions.</p>
	Serious eye injury		1	4	6	