

5.3.d. Risk Assessment Ropes, strings and other long things

Line Manager name:		Line Manager signature:		Assessment No: 4
Date: 04/10/22	Assessed by: Maggie MacDonald and Jacqueline Bremner	Location: Nursery and Wee Green Space		Review date:
	Signature:	Activity: Ropes, strings and other long things		August 2023

What has the potential To cause harm (hazards) and what harm might result?	Who and how many people might be at risk?	What measures are already in place?	Severity	Likelihood	Risk rating	What further action (s) needs to be taken to reduce risk	By whom and by what date
Children's abilities and level of supervision leading to an increased risk of accidents occurring.	All	When using ropes and strings, children will be supervised, at all times. Items not being used will be stored appropriately to reduce the possibility of tripping. Ropes etc are to be counted out and in, so none are left inadvertently out. The quantity and length of ropes available are dependent on the age, ability and experience of the children, and the level of supervision.	4	1	4		
Slips trips and falls	All	Trees and branches should be checked to ensure they are safe to hold required weight and are not rotten or damaged.	4	1	4		

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		<p>Brightly coloured ropes are used, where possible, to make them more visible. Tags to be added to ensure they are not camouflaged by foliage or to make them more visible.</p> <p>Long hair to be tied back or kept under a hat to avoid getting caught.</p> <p>When possible, place ropes either above or below neck height for children.</p> <p>Area around the rope structure should be clear of any items that could cause harm if fallen on such as rocks, branches.</p>					
Ropes getting caught on hands and fingers and around children's neck, causing risk of strangulation	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children do not wrap rope around their neck, hands, or wrists ● Knots on structures are to be checked, before structures are used, to ensure they are secure. ● Support and supervision to be given to children 	4	1	4		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ropes are not to be carried up a tree. 					

Benefits of using ropes, string, and long things

- Encourages cooperative play.
- Facilitates communication and discussions around what can be done with a rope or piece of string. Provoke I wonder, what if questioning and encourages problem solving.
- Supports tying of knots and development of motor skills and co-ordination.
- Helps children develop a sense of responsibility and creates real life situations which need to be continuously risk assessed.
- Supports the development and working knowledge and understanding of gravity and forces.
- Creates opportunities to explore the many uses and properties of rope and string. What material would work best in any circumstance or structure? More problem solving and creative thinking.
- The enjoyment of playing on or in a structure that has been made by the children themselves.
- Helps develop self-esteem and independence.