



TREE CLIMBING RISK ASSESSMENT

Must be used in conjunction with:

- General Welfare and Weather
- Site Specific Woodland Assessment

ASSESSORS: M.Hudson & S.Owens

DATE: May 2026

REVIEW DATE: May 2027

	HAZARD	PERSONS AT RISK	Harm	PROBABILITY (P) 1-5	SEVERITY (S) 1-5	RATING (P) X (S) 1-25	WHAT MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN	BY WHO
1	Falling from a tree, landing on something hard or pointed, branches falling onto someone from above	Children climbing trees and those underneath – Adults with the group	• Concussion	1	4	4	'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.	SEO & MH
			• 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		
2	Feet getting trapped between branches		• Twisted or broken foot or ankle	1	3	3	• Climbing dens is not allowed if other children are playing below • Children should not climb higher than 2 metres (feet at 2 metres) • Weather conditions are taken into consideration as surfaces can be slippery.	SEO & MH



3	Sharp, pointy branches or twigs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrapes and scratches Serious eye injury 	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children are taught not to put weight on any branch thinner than their wrist. Children are taught how to recognise dead branches. If the staff member judges that the tree is not safe, children are not allowed to climb. Supervising staff never lift children up a tree. A knee can be offered for children to use as a boost.
				1	4	6	