



Working Near Water Policy

Whether jumping in a puddle, paddling in a stream or dipping for bugs: water is popular with children and provides many opportunities for learning and having fun. With good risk assessment and management this is a low risk activity with great benefits. We adhere to the guidance of Central Council for Physical Recreation in ‘Group Safety at Water Margins’

Within the woodland, there are a number of watercourses including lake, pools and streams, it is therefore important to establish boundaries with the group for each session. If a child-led activity should lead to interaction with any watercourse, apply Dynamic Risk Assessment to assess suitability of the activity continuing.

- **Assess and plan activity before the day and identify potential hazards.**
- **Complete a comprehensive risk assessment, to include exits if someone falls, underwater hazards, depth and weather which may make slips easier.**
- **Assess the group; ages, behaviour, and any additional needs.**
- **To include whether clothing and footwear is suitable?**
- **Whether staffing ratio's are sufficient for the activity?**
- **Discuss possible risks and expectations with the children and adults.**
- **Do not leave children unsupervised at any time.**
- **Be prepared to change the activity and area if situation changes.**
- **Consider water quality within each risk assessment.**