



<b>Activity</b>	<b>Activities that involve being the ground (including tree climbing)</b>		
<b>Date of activity</b>		<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>
	This activity may happen whenever trees that are suitable for climbing are in the vicinity. Individual trees that the children wish to climb may need to be separately assessed.		
<b>Level of Hazard</b>	Medium		
<b>Level of Risk</b>	High		

<b>Benefits of Activity</b>	Being off the ground provides children with the opportunity to challenge themselves whilst having fun and exercise. Climbing trees brings children into contact with nature and some children will find being in trees calms them. Climbing trees also stimulates the senses. For some children they will have a sense of being allowed to do something new which is often forbidden to them. Some children can excel at this activity because they are low in body weight, fearless, and have an unlimited abundance of energy. Tree climbing is a great way to build a child's self-confidence!		
<b>Is the risk acceptable?</b>	Yes		
<b>Name</b>		<b>Date of assessment</b>	
<b>Signature</b>			

Hazard	Risk rating	Control measures	Risk rating with control measures
1. Falling or slipping from heights	2x4=8 2x5=10 med	1.1 during wet weather make children aware that the branches and rocks will be more slippy 1.2 children not to be put under pressure when climbing, allow children to focus on the activity and speak to them calmly and reassuringly. 1.3. Adult to climb all trees that children climb to assess risks 1.4 Children are not permitted to climb higher than 1.5m off the ground 1.5 ribbons of other signals to be used to mark where safe climbing limit is.	2x4=8 Medium
2. Dead branches breaking under children's weight – leading to a branch falling onto	2x4=8 2x5=10 med	2.1. Get children to 'flag' (verbally or physically) Dead branches and sharps 2.2. Make sure all children can recognise a dead branch by its lack of foliage, bark, twigs or the different sound a dead branch makes (n.b this may cause problems in winter time when there are no leaves. Look for buds or small twigs to show healthy branches)	1x4=4 low



Hazard	Risk rating	Control measures	Risk rating with control measures
others, or a child falling from tree		2.3. Adult to climb all trees that children climb to double check location of dead branches 2.4 check the ground underneath the tree for sharp roots, rocks or branches	
3. Child standing on another child's fingers climbing below.	3x2=6 med	2.1. Limit numbers of children in any one tree or rock. 2.2 encourage children to be aware of others and sensitive to different abilities and the speed that others can climb	2x2=4 low
4. Child getting stuck	4x1=4 low	4.1. Children must only climb where they can climb unaided. Do not give 'bunk ups' or allow children to use climbing aids. 4.2. Adult to climb wherever children climb to assess risks. 4.3 Allow children to focus on the activity and speak to them calmly and reassuringly. 4.4 respect children's self imposed limits on how high they want to climb	3x1=3 low
5. Wounding on sharps sticking out of tree or rock	3x2=6 med	5.1. Get children to 'flag' (verbally or physically) Dead branches and sharps 5.2. Adult to climb all trees that children climb and remove sharp branches if appropriate	2x2=4 low
6. weak or vulnerable trees	2x4=8 2x5=10 med	6.1 Do not climb trees if you see <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• broken branches that are hanging precariously or lodged in a tree.</li> <li>• A leaning tree which has air spaces in the soil opposite the trees lean</li> <li>• Cracks in the trunk</li> <li>• The tree is dead or mostly dead- no foliage in summer and no buds or small twigs in winter</li> </ul> 6.2 thoroughly assess all trees that are used for climbing: Look at the tree from a distance to get a feel for it as a whole. Assess this each time you go back to a tree to note any changes: Be cautious about allowing tree climbing if you see the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaning which will often be more evident from afar.</li> <li>• Branches that are broken or split</li> <li>• Branch angles that look out of place or unusual.</li> </ul>	1x4=4 low



Hazard	Risk rating	Control measures	Risk rating with control measures
6. weak or vulnerable trees cont		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power lines are often seen more clearly from a distance.</li> <li>• Large dead branches in the top of the tree</li> </ul> <p>Look at the trunk and the floor. Assess this each time you go back to a tree to note any changes: Be cautious about allowing tree climbing if you see the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dead branches lying on the ground. It's a good bet there will be more of them up in the tree. Step away from the tree and look up again.</li> <li>• The presence of fungus on or near a tree trunk. This points to root decay and trunk rot</li> <li>• Absence of bark on the trunk which indicates a dead section or a fungus attack.</li> <li>• A long streak of missing bark coming down the trunk which usually means lightning has hit the tree.</li> </ul> <p>6.3 If unsure of the status of a tree or the risk it poses ask for advice or professional opinion.</p>	

<b>Persons at risk</b>	Adults (including employees and volunteers) and children
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