



Venue Benefit Risk Assessment – The Fox Guild

Activities:

- Little Foxes Nature Play Group
- School Holiday Family Bush Club

Locations:

- You Yangs Regional Park, Lower Picnic Ground
- Frank Mann Reserve, Ceres
- Victoria Park, Inverleigh

Types of activity:

Include but not limited to: Walking, running, exploring, walking in bare feet, playing with sticks, making and playing with mud, playing in the dirt, climbing on rocks, making pretend food, painting with mud, making potions out of found objects, loose parts play, exploration of local environment, bark rubbings, small tree climbing, teepee construction and other imaginative nature play activities.

Benefits of these activities:

Activity	Developmental Benefits include
General participation	Gross motor, fine motor, social, language and communication, sensory development Pre kinder and school skills
Playing imaginative games using the resources nature provides	Open ended learning allows children to explore at their own pace and with their own challenges
Role Play	Using shared imagination, drama, working with others, sharing ideas, recollection of models of behaviour
Building shelters or other large structures from branches, with the help of peers and adults.	This requires setting goals, planning, engineering, teamwork and perseverance.
Counting found objects, categorising found objects, finding patterns in nature	Explores mathematical concepts and visual discrimination
Observing changes in nature	Predicting patterns and outcomes
Arranging items to make an ephemeral picture or installation	Using natural materials creatively; creating with an emphasis on the “doing” rather than the outcome
Walking on logs and rocks, exploring the bush, rolling down slopes	Gross motor co-ordination; body awareness in space and movement; understanding risk and considering actions



Walking within the Reserve	Improve physical fitness and stamina; Making choices about activities for the day
Play involving effects of water on our environment e.g. puddles, mud play	Awareness of effects of weather on environment; science: changes; Sensory properties of mud, soil.

Hazard Identification and Assessment:

Potential Hazard	Precautions/Control Measures	Who/when	Risk assessment after precautions
Snakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform children and carers that snakes live in this environment. Encourage parents/carers to keep in close contact with children at all times. Inform children and carers to not approach a snake, to just stand still, remain calm and wait until the snake moves out of the way. Facilitator has level 2 first aid up to date and carries a snake bite first aid kit. 	Facilitator, children and carers. Ongoing	Moderate
Roads within 20-100m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform carers that there is a road at the periphery of the area we are exploring. The group will be encouraged to explore on the non-road area of the space. 	Facilitator, children and carers. Ongoing	Low
Cars driving into the carpark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is possible at any stage so we will make sure the group is advised to explore on the non-carpark side of the fence. 	Facilitator, children and carers, Ongoing	Low
Child wandering off into the Bush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst there is plenty of clear space in our Playgroup area, we are part of the larger green spaces and there is a lot of space to wander off. Carers will be advised to keep their own children within their sight (and vice versa!). Facilitator will provide an extra pair of eyes. 	Facilitator, children and carers, Ongoing	Low
Bushfire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facilitator will check the current warnings for the sites each week prior to the session. We will follow the advice of the Victorian Government and CFA http://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/. On a day of code red, extreme or severe fire danger, the session will not be held. 	Vic Government, Facilitator and carers, Bushfire Season	Low



Venue Benefit Risk Assessment – The Fox Guild

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facilitator has the VicEmergency App on their phone. 		
Other weather elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun – keep hydrated, wear sunscreen and protective clothing, seek shelter Rain – wear appropriate clothing, seek shelter if the rain is too strong Storms – wear appropriate clothing. Seek shelter as appropriate and leave the area if the risk is deemed too high by facilitator and/or carers Extreme cold – wear appropriate clothing. Weather is unlikely to be so cold that it would prevent playgroup from continuing. 	Facilitator and carers, Ongoing	Low
Insects and arachnids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform children and their carers to keep an eye out for insects and spiders. If discovered then they can viewed and understood. Children will be informed that they should refrain from touching spiders or insects that they find, unless they are considered to be safe. 	Facilitator, children and carers, Ongoing	Low
Rocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the You Yangs there are some large rocks in the area that may be climbed upon by children. We can discuss the considerations to make when climbing these rocks, ie slippery, sharp, fall risk from the top and sides. 	Facilitator, children and carers, Ongoing	Low
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a dam at the far end of the Frank Mann Reserve. The groups will be run at the opposite end. Carers will be reminded to stay with their child at all times, speak with their child about water safety, keep an eye on their child/ren at all times, and keep an eye out for wandering children. 	Facilitator, children and carers, Ongoing	Low
Falling tree branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facilitator will survey the area before each session and assess whether there is an immediate risk of falling tree branches (particularly after a storm & hot still days). The Parks Authority, Geelong Council, or Victoria Park Committee will be informed if there is any suspicion of risk. 	Facilitator, children and carers, Ongoing	Moderate
Sticks/leaves/dirt and ground cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform children/carers of the hazard to allow self-evaluation Remove where appropriate 	Facilitator, children and carers, Ongoing	Moderate
Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank Mann Reserve is an 'off lead' park. We do encounter dogs off leads at other sites. 	Facilitator, children and	Moderate



Venue Benefit Risk Assessment – The Fox Guild

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The facilitator will place a sign at the entrance of Frank Mann reserve advising dog owners that we are running a playgroup.	carers, Ongoing	
Broken Glass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There will be rubbish including broken glass at all sites. The facilitator will clear the playgroup area of potentially dangerous rubbish.Unfortunately at the You Yongs due to the amount of glass it is not possible to clear the area entirely. The facilitator will discuss this with parents/carers and will have a trolley/bucket/bag for pieces of glass to be deposited into.	Facilitator, children and carers, Ongoing	Moderate

Notes: Review assessment 1. Annually, 2. After an incident, 3. After a major change to the local environment. Monitor effectiveness of control measures and adjust accordingly. Facilitator and Carers sign understanding of assessment via the liability release form.