

SUFFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE OF PRACTICE

Shelter/Den Building

January 2018

Den building stimulates creativity and imagination and develops social and practical skills.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTIVITY TO TAKE PLACE

- Recommended adult: child supervision ratios
- Qualified first aider or appointed person is present (Refer to First Aid COP)
- Site Emergency Plan is in place including knowledge of nearest vehicle access point
- Appropriate Risk Assessments are in place and adhered to
- Guidance in the Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy must be followed.

Brief participants:

- Be aware of people around you and look out for them when moving sticks and logs
- When lifting logs, bend knees, not your back (refer to Manual Handling Guidance booklet)
- Don't lift logs that are too heavy- thicker than your leg
- Roll logs using hands (not feet)
- If it's a very long stick, hold one end and drag the other end on the floor or, find a friend for the end
- Place sticks so that the widest part is in touch with the ground so that the den is not top-heavy.
- Create the structure first with larger logs, then use smaller branches, bracken, brash and dead leaves to cover the gaps.
- Don't add sticks while people are inside the shelter
- Don't use fresh/living vegetation (except bracken)
- If using bracken, gloves must be worn for pulling.
- Blankets and other fabric can also be used as alternative coverings
- The shelter should not be entered until an adult has checked that it is safe to do so.
- Dismantling procedure: Remove smaller stuff first, then ensure that no-one is behind you and carefully take one pole at a time and lower them to the ground. No throwing or dragging out.

In addition:

Consider the group size and dynamics

Assign one adult to each shelter if possible

Identify non-sensitive areas for den building.