Risk Benefit Assessment: **Ropes, swings, hammocks and other structures**	**Venue:** Kinder Croft CIC Outdoor Nursery **Location:** Leckmelm Woods, Ullapool, Ross-shire, IV23 2RH **GR:** NH 157 916	***Assessor: Joni Mackay*** ***Date: November 2025*** ***Date of Review: November 2026***

Description of activity and area assessed:

Using ropes for loose parts play or to create swings and other play structures, eg.tight rope, ziplines, pulleys.
Putting up hammocks for play and relaxation.
Creating structures with ropes and tarpaulins for shelter and play areas.
Any other structure created using ropes and other materials.

Nearest Emergency phone: KC mobile on site: 07704663486	**Nearest Doctors:** Ullapool - 01854 612015 **Hospital:** Raigmore, Inverness - 01463 704000 Ambulance: 999
Persons at Risk: Staff and Children	**Personal Protective Equipment Needed:** Protective Gloves

Benefits of Experience/Activity: SPICES
Social – Collaboration and cooperation when creating and playing on rope structures. Sharing and turn taking.
Physical – Balance, movement, knot tying, coordination, spacial awareness. Gross and fine motor skills. Proprioceptive and vestibular input.
Intellectual – Problem solving, imagination, designing, evaluating, assessing risk/safety.
Communication – Collaboration and cooperation when building a structure. Describing design and giving directions to others. Turn taking. Helping or receiving help from others, anticipation.
Emotional – Friendship developing through shared enjoyable experiences. Fear and risk. Excitement. Self - confidence. Self esteem. Resilience. Turn taking and waiting. Developing practical skills for life.
Spiritual – Relaxation. Mindfulness – focus on activity, concentration. Awareness of natural world, immediate environment and what it provides to us.

Hazards	Risk	Evaluation	Control action	Final evaluation
Rope swing/tight rope/hammock.	Person falling from swing.	4	Ensure that ropes being used are tested for strength by pulling firmly.	2
	Collision with participant walking past swing.	4	Ropes must be assessed regularly for damage and fraying and replaced if damaged or frayed.	2
			Assess strength of tree and suitability for weight bearing.	
			Assess ground below to ensure no sharp objects.	
	Person falling from tight rope.	4	• For tight rope use variation of 'Truckers hitch' to ensure rope is tight and secure.	2
	Person falling from hammock.	4	• Leader will try all rope structures/activities before participants to confirm they are secure.	2
			• Dependent on age of participants, leader will specify number of people allowed in hammock at a time.	
	Collision with participant walking past hammock	4	• No standing up while in hammock.	2

Hazards	Risk	Evaluation	Control action	Final evaluation
	Burns to hands putting up swing/tight rope. Participant becoming entangled in rope.	4 4	• Swings will reach no higher than 2 metres at highest swing point. • Tight ropes will be no higher than 1ft off the ground to minimise the likelihood of groin injury if a fall occurs. • Ropes will be checked regularly throughout session. • Support children to assess their own risk taking. • Position swing/tight rope/hammock in an area away from main walkways. • Gloves available for wearing during construction of swings/tight ropes if desired. • Ensure ropes are a suitable length for purpose. • Tie up any spare rope, do not leave dangling.	2 2
Structures erected during session.	Injury from collision with ropes/becoming tangled in rope or tripping and falling. Injury from structure collapsing.	4 4	If a shelter tarpaulin is erected ensure ropes are above head height, not likely to cause an obstruction and not dangling. Ensure any ropes used for structures are clearly visible – use tape or tie on ribbons to make more obvious if necessary. Do not create structures on paths or walkways. Observe participants and ensure safe use of resources. Staff to assess stability of structures and knots when built. Encourage participants to assess the safety of their own structures. Tie up any spare rope, do not leave dangling.	2 2

Hazards	Risk	Evaluation	Control action	Final evaluation

Severity/Consequence

Likelihood		Slightly harmful (1)	Harmful (2)	Extremely harmful (3)
	Highly unlikely (1)	Trivial risk (Score 1)	Tolerable risk (Score 2)	Moderate risk (Score 3)
	Unlikely (2)	Tolerable risk (Score 2)	Moderate risk (Score 4)	Substantial risk (Score 6)
	Likely (3)	Moderate risk (Score 3)	Substantial risk (Score 6)	Intolerable risk (Score 9)