

RA052 — Autumn Nature Detectives (30 September)

Naylor's Ark Soul Sanctuary · Risk assessment (Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999)

Activity: Autumn term week 5: exploring the orchard and farm for signs of autumn — leaves, seeds, insects, fungi, animal behaviour and changing daylight — plus natural crafts

Programme: Home Education Hub — Home Ed at the Ark, term-time Wednesdays 11am–2pm

Assessment date: 20/08/2026 · Assessor: Liberty Naylor · Review: annually, after any incident and before each new term

Site: Naylor's Ark Soul Sanctuary · CPH 46/327/7111 · Vet: 608 Equine & Farm Veterinary Surgeons · Read with HSP-01, SSOW-01, RA031 biosecurity and the Home Ed session safety and hygiene checklist

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control measures in place	Residual risk
Fungi — handling and ingestion of poisonous species	Learners	Fungi are looked at, photographed and drawn but never picked, handled or tasted — stated at the briefing and repeated at each find; team member present at every fungi find; hands washed if accidental contact occurs; families told to seek urgent medical advice if any fungus is eaten.	High before controls / Medium after
Berries, seeds and plant material put in mouths	Learners	Nothing eaten or tasted during the activity; younger learners closely supervised; collection bags used for craft material and emptied under supervision; known poisonous plants (yew, ivy, nightshade) identified and pointed out as look-but-don't-touch.	Medium
Insects, spiders, stings and bites while searching	Learners, parents	Bug pots and brushes used rather than hands; logs and stones lifted by an adult and replaced carefully; nest and hive sites cordoned off; sting allergies declared on registration with auto-injectors kept with the family.	Low
Straying into unsupervised or out-of-bounds areas while exploring	Learners	Search zone marked out with cones or flags at the start; boundaries walked with the group before searching begins; adults remain with their own children; head count at the end of each search block.	Medium
Darker afternoons, low light and cold	All present	Session finishes in daylight; warm layers, hats and gloves stated at booking; hot drinks available; wet or icy ground assessed before the session and the route changed if needed; RA037 adverse weather controls apply.	Low
Craft materials — glue, string, wire and small parts	Learners	Non-toxic glue and blunt tools only; wire and small parts kept away from under-5s; crafting seated at tables with adults present; all materials cleared away and hands washed before leaving.	Low
Animal contact — bites, knocks, treads, startling	Learners, parents, staff	Only animals cleared for public contact on the roster; a member of the team present throughout; approach from the side, calm voices, no running or chasing; no head handling where the roster says so; no entry to paddocks with unsettled animals; RA015 general visit controls apply.	Medium
Zoonoses and infection (E. coli O157, cryptosporidium, ringworm)	Learners, parents, staff	Hand-washing with soap and hot water after animal contact and before any food or drink; no eating, drinking, thumb-sucking or phone use in animal areas; cuts and grazes covered; supervised wash station signed and stocked; RA031 biosecurity and zoonoses controls apply; anyone unwell asked to rebook.	Medium
Supervision and safeguarding of children	Learners	Parents and carers remain responsible for their own children and stay with them at all times; learners never left alone with an animal or a volunteer; ratio confirmed at booking; DBS-checked lead on site; concerns reported to the sanctuary lead the same day and to the local authority safeguarding team within 24 hours.	Low
Slips, trips, uneven ground and weather	All present	Route checked and swept before the session; suitable footwear and outdoor clothing stated at booking; wet or muddy sections coned or avoided; walkways kept clear of hoses, buckets and tools; shaded and sheltered space available;	Low

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control measures in place	Residual risk
		RA037 adverse weather controls apply; session shortened or postponed in high wind, ice or heat.	
Allergies, medical needs and mobility	Learners, parents	Allergies, medical needs and mobility captured on the family registration and reviewed before each session; seated and at-distance options always offered; families keep their own medication (inhalers, antihistamines, auto-injectors) with them; first aider on site with a stocked kit; MNA-01 medical needs assessment applies.	Low
Emergency, fire or animal escape during a session	All present	Site safety briefing and sign-in at the gate before every session; assembly point, fire point, first aid kit and toilets shown at the start; gates closed behind every person; register held by the lead; incident, near miss or animal concern reported and logged in the app the same day.	Low