



# Outdoors Risk Management for Families

*"Healthy risk plays an important role in the development of the child."*

Forest & Nature School in Canada

**Important Safety Note – We've taken every precaution to ensure a safe outdoor environment. Please partner with us in keeping your child safe by being with him/her at all times. Thank you.**

## General Safety

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**Prevention:** You are here to connect with your child and learn alongside her/him. It is a magical time that will have lasting positive results. Please do yourself and your child a favour by leaving your phone in your car. We will have a cell phone for emergencies.

## Clothing

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**Prevention:** Children and adults should be wearing long sleeves, long pants, sturdy rain pants and rain boots as a minimum, at all times. Other weather gear is at your discretion, but to be comfortable, be prepared for any type of weather including cold, rain and sun. Dressing in layers is helpful. Adults won't be moving around as much as the children (other than non-walking babies), so you will likely need more layers.

## Washrooms

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**Awareness:** We will do our best to choose sites that have washroom facilities nearby. That being said, it is not always possible to have access to washrooms. It is helpful to make sure your child has gone to the washroom before attending and that peeing in the bushes is okay by us! If number two is happening, we will provide a bag and sanitizer to assist and remove.

## Dirt

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**Caution:** We count on getting dirty. We will supply an opportunity for hand washing once you leave, but unless there is an unusual situation, we expect the freedom of exploration will result in dirty hands and possibly dirty faces.

## Bug Bites

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**Prevention:** Wearing long sleeves, long pants, socks and rain boots will go a long way to avoid insect bites. This includes ticks, spiders, wasps and mosquitos. Refraining from wearing strong perfumed body products will also help. We will provide natural products for any stings or bites that occur. If your child has an allergy, please come prepared with the safety products/medicines that will assist with the allergy.

## Scrapes, Bumps, Slivers

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**Caution:** We want kids to learn! They do that best by exploring. They need to take risks to be able to make sense of their world. We have a very good first aid kit and will always have it with us. If there is a bigger safety concern we will assess and avoid it or remove it (such as a stick poking out at eye level). If there is an injury that could require medical attention, we have a system in place should that ever happen. We will always have a cell phone for emergencies.

## Wildlife

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**Prevention:** Children's safety is our number one priority. A great resource is wildsafebc.com for any information that you would need about how to prevent an encounter with wildlife such as bears, cougars, wolves, etc. Luckily, we are in a group, and we will be noisy; two things that can deter an animal from coming close. Regardless, little children are vulnerable, so staying with your child and being engaged in what they are doing is your best safety measure. If you are coming with two or more children, it is best that you encourage them to stay with the group. Children wandering off is not acceptable or safe for any reason. Each day, before venturing out, the BLT facilitator will check the "Wildlife Alert Reporting Program" (WARP) for any warnings and will certainly use good judgment to determine the safety of a site. If there is a change of plans, we will always resort to Munchkinland using Facebook, the website and Twitter to alert you.

**All BLT Early Learning programs are covered under School District 69's Protection and Insurance policies.**