



# Wildlife & Insects Safety Policy

**Policy Code: FS-HS-012**

**Version: 1.0**

**Review Date: Annually**

## Statement

At Nurture & Grow Forest & Play, we recognise that interaction with wildlife and insects is a natural and valuable part of Forest School learning. We are committed to ensuring this is managed safely through supervision, education and risk assessment.

## 1. Aims

### We aim to:

- Enable children to explore nature safely
- Minimise risk from wildlife and insects
- Promote respect and understanding of the natural environment
- Ensure staff are confident in managing risks

## 2. Common Risks

- Insect stings (bees, wasps)
- Bites (ants, ticks)
- Contact reactions (caterpillars, plants)
- Animal encounters

## 3. Risk Assessment

- Site checks identify nests, hives or high-risk areas
- Seasonal changes are monitored
- Dynamic risk assessment is carried out during sessions



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## 4. Control Measures

### Insects (Bees, Wasps)

- Avoid known nesting areas
- Do not disturb insects
- Move away calmly if insects are present

### Bites & Ticks

- Encourage appropriate clothing
- Check children where appropriate
- Maintain hygiene practices

### Animals

- Do not approach unknown animals
- Maintain safe distance
- Inform staff immediately

## 5. Rules for Children

Children are supported to understand:

- Do not touch insects or animals
- Move calmly and quietly
- Inform an adult if they see something

## 6. First Aid Response

Stings/Bites

- Remove sting if present
- Apply cold compress
- Monitor for allergic reaction



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## Allergic Reaction

- Follow individual care plans
- Administer medication if required
- Call emergency services if necessary

## 7. Staff Responsibilities

- Supervise children closely
- Identify potential hazards
- Respond calmly and appropriately
- Follow first aid procedures

## 8. Environmental Responsibility

Children are encouraged to:

- Respect wildlife
- Observe without disturbing
- Develop awareness of nature

## 9. Linked Policies

- FS-HS-001 Health & Safety Policy
- FS-RA-001 Dynamic Risk Assessment Policy
- FS-HS-006 Poisonous Plants Policy

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tracey Doidge'.

**Name:** Tracey Doidge

**Role:** Director / Registered Provider

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026