



Outdoor Learning Risk Assessment Checklist



Reconnaissance



Before taking your class to an area either on or near the school grounds it is best practice to explore the area ahead of time and assess it for risks and feel comfortable with your surroundings.



Communications



Ensure you have communicated with students, parents, and administration that you will be taking your learning outside and off school grounds. Helpful to leave a note on your door with date and location of where you are that day. For walking field trip forms click [HERE](#).



Safety Plan: click [HERE](#) & [HERE](#) for supportive document- think through some of these scenarios before heading out.

- ✓ Boundaries
- ✓ Lost child
- ✓ Runner
- ✓ Large mammals
- ✓ High winds
- ✓ First Aid
- ✓ Risky play & challenge by choice- practice **your** language
- ✓ Wasp nest
- ✓ Eating mushrooms or poisonous plants
- ✓ Bathroom breaks & accidents



Safety practice

Include students in this process through **games** and **conversations**.

Safety Charades Game: designate one of the below scenario to either pairs or small groups. In silence they act out their scenario to the group, the group has to guess what the hazard it. After each presentation ask what would we do in this scenario.

In small groups or pairs have students list out possible hazards while out on your excursion (*school yard to overnight expeditions*). Make a poster or presentation of the **hazard-probability-consequence-defence** for each. This will help arm your students to become their own risk assessors and to help you while outdoors.

Hazard	Probability	Consequence	Defence
Rain	Med	Low-med	<i>Dress for the weather, hat or toque, shelter available, hydrate, and food fuel.</i>
Large Mammals	Low	Med-High	<i>Safety plan in place & practiced, noise, buddy system, stay within boundaries.</i>



Set Boundaries



Set your outdoor boundaries and make sure your students know and respect them. Use either obvious boundaries already in place (eg. *Road, fence, sidewalk, building*), pylons or a bright visual they must be able to see at all times.



Student call Back & Buddies

Have a clear call back for when your students need to return to you. Practice it lots, till they can all do it quickly and calmly. Best practice to have a buddy and go over the role and responsibilities of buddies. Remember buddies do not replace adults.

Group C all Back



VS.

Emergency Call Back



Leader Backpack, Frist Aid Kit & Cell Phone



Safety first!! Make sure you have a well stocked, portable first aid and know how to use it. Also, be sure to have a **charged** cell phone with numbers of school and staff you need to contact in an emergency. When in doubt call 911.