

KE MISSING CHILD POLICY

Kinda Forest Schools' all-encompassing aim is to keep our children safe as an utmost priority at all times. This policy will be applied wherever Forest School is operating.

All adults continually check on where and how the children are. As soon as it is discovered, that the Head Count at any particular moment, does not agree with that recorded at the start of that session, the situation will be taken very seriously. The Forest School Leader will be informed, if unaware.

If an immediate recount still shows a shortfall, all activities will be suspended and "1, 2, 3, where are you?" for the younger tribe, and the whistle for the older tribe will be used to rally all group members.

Two adults will be released for a 10 minute search of the immediate area including woodland, track and road, whilst another adults occupy the remaining children with a game/song or story. The main aim to prevent anxiety escalating amongst the children, "1, 2, 3, where are you?" or whistle will be carried out once more.

If the child are discovered or return back to camp the situation is dealt with in a serious but sensitive way. Some children feel overloaded and take themselves away to gather themselves. This is taken into consideration.

If the 10 minute search does not discover the missing child the Forest School Leader will keep the rest of the group together. A minimum of one adult will stay in the area to look, contact will be maintained by mobile phone.

If the the missing child do not return to the camp, and if the searching adult has not found anyone a phone call will be made to the parent/carer/referrer to inform them of the situation.

At this point we may choose to alert Police.

Forest School Staff should immediately make a record of events and timings and last known position of the child. These will be recorded on the Emergency Procedures sheet and logged in the Forest School incident book.

Prepared by Mell Harrison