

Area: Discover - Story time

Year 2026

Assessor: Mark & Emma Spiller
(18.04.2026)

Reviewed by: William Day
(19/05/2026)

Hazard	Who Might Be Harmed	Is the Risk Adequately Controlled, or is More Needed	Review and Revision
Trips, slips, and falls when sitting down or standing up - young people may trip over carpet tiles, toys, or each other when settling or leaving the area.	Young people & adults	Ensure carpet tiles are flat, secure, and evenly laid.	
		Keep the seating area clear of bags and loose items.	
		Clear rule of no running reinforced before and after the story.	
Choking - whilst eating snacks	Young people & adults	Adults supervise young people as they sit down and stand up.	
		Minimise activity involvement whilst eating, everyone encouraged to stay sat down	
Crowding and personal space issues - young people sitting too close together may push, fidget, or become uncomfortable.	Young people	Many leaders will have First Response training, with additional support from on-site First Aid	
		Adults help young people find appropriate spacing when seated.	
		Group size limited to suit the space.	
Use of puppets, toys, or props - young people may grab props, put them in mouths, or argue over them.	Young people	Adults positioned around the group to manage behaviour calmly.	
		Clear rule explained: props are borrowed and must be returned.	
		Props used mainly by the leader, not passed around unless supervised.	
		Use age appropriate, robust, and clean items only.	
Emotional distress or fear caused by story content - Some young people may feel frightened or upset by themes, characters, or noises.	Young people	All props collected at the end of the session.	
		All stories pre-checked for age appropriateness.	
		Avoid scary, intense, or sudden surprises.	
		Leaders watch young people for signs of discomfort and stop or adapt if required.	
Behavioural disruption - Talking, fidgeting, or loss of focus may disrupt the activity.	Young people	Provide reassurance and allow a child to move away if needed.	
		Story sessions kept short and engaging.	
		Gentle reminders about sitting quietly and listening.	
		Encourage interaction only when appropriate.	
		Adults model calm behaviour and positive reinforcement.	