

50 DANGEROUS THINGS... PARENTS INFO SHEET



Thank you for your interest in '50 Dangerous Things You Should Let Your Child Do This Easter... camp

This information provides an overview of the purpose and logistics of the programme, but please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries about any aspect of the programme.

What is 50 Dangerous Things... camp?

50 Dangerous Things... camp is a school holiday programme inspired by the work of educator and [author Gever Tulley](#) and the [Tinkering School](#) movement in the USA. We believe fundamentally that **Risky, messy, collaborative outdoor play is good for children** and that connecting with the natural world, being free to play, experimenting (and sometimes, failing) and making important, purposeful decisions is crucial to the wellbeing and healthy development of children. Even the [National Trust](#) has adopted the idea!



At 50 Dangerous Things... camp (which for short, we call 50DT), children are outdoors all day, whatever the weather, and participate in a mixture of planned (and fully risk assessed) 'dangerous' activities, as well as having plenty of free time to relax, socialise and pursue their own interests.

The 'dangers' we refer to are not necessarily physically risky – although some certainly are. We are also interested in offering children opportunities to take **emotional and intellectual risks** in their play, and we support and scaffold their progress so that they explore and play at a pace they are comfortable with.

- Our programmes have themed 3 or 4 day weeks, but each day is flexible and is shaped by the weather to a certain degree – although we won't let it stop us getting out and about.
- Core activities are available every day – tree climbing; den building; bushcraft; building; playing with and cooking on the fire; pond dipping, etc.
- We very much welcome your input and that of your child in planning activities. Is there something you'd love to see your child persevere with? Have you been encouraging them to improve skills, or try something new? Let us know; if we can incorporate it into 50DT, we will.

We aim to spend the days doing things children are unlikely to experience at school, at home or at more conventional holiday day camps. If we can get them confidently practicing things they've never tried before, so much the better.

50DT camp is managed by Julie Mountain and insured by Birnbeck Insurance Services

OUR DAILY PROGRAMME

Every day is unique, but is punctuated by social mealtimes and hygiene stops:

- Healthy snacks mid-morning
- Packed lunches from home and food from the open fire at lunchtime and in the afternoon
- 'Treat' snacks mid-afternoon (e.g. biscuits, marshmallows, fire-baked chocolate orange cakes – that kind of thing)
- Fruit and water will be available all day; juices at mealtimes; hot chocolate from the fire on demand!

Our days begin with a shared exploration of how the day might pan out and what risk factors we should all be aware of. We agree what the truly, genuinely important things to know are before we start (e.g. where the loos are, when we eat, what to do if you or a friend is hurt, where we are allowed to roam and where not...). We don't spend ages on rules but will remind children that we expect everyone, adult or child, to listen respectfully to one another and to look out for everyone so that our Dangerous experiences are **as safe as necessary**, and no more. First timers will accompany a team member on our daily site 'risk benefit assessment', helping newbies get an overview of the site and its potential for fun as well as its hazards.

We ask you to **drop your child off from 9am, and be off site by 9.10am** so we are ready to get on with our Dangerous Plans. When we go off site (e.g. to the ford or the tip), we are back on site by 4pm; **pick up is between 4.45pm and 5pm** each day.

You are most welcome to spend the last fifteen minutes of the day with us, perhaps around the fire or renewing your own tree climbing skills.

STAFFING

50 Dangerous Things is managed by Julie Mountain and she is supported by experienced team members Denise Grant, Caitie Ross and Aidan Blackman. We are knowledgeable, enthusiastic, experienced and playful outdoor practitioners. We know the local area and will play alongside your child – we're as up for getting muddy and scratched as they are.

Julie has worked with schools and early years settings on outdoor learning and play projects for over 20 years, and has developed and run outdoor play schemes in the USA and in the UK. She also provides training and support for teachers and play practitioners, encouraging them to offer rich, varied and memorable outdoor experiences for the children they work with. Find out more at our [website](#).

Caitie and Denise are qualified teachers and many of you know Aidan from his sports coaching with children in Alresford and beyond. We all share a passion for outdoors and a desire to see all children offered opportunities to explore and enjoy the natural world.

SAFEGUARDING YOUR CHILD

All staff have current Enhanced DBS certificates, and at least two staff members every day holds a current Paediatric First Aid certificate. We also hold Child Safeguarding; Food Hygiene and the HCC Open Water Rescue certificates. Programme leaders are experienced teaching, outdoor education and childcare professionals and in addition to offering a high quality, adventurous activity programme, we will provide your child with focused, respectful attention, whether they are trying a new activity, needing a plaster and a cuddle or tying their shoelaces!

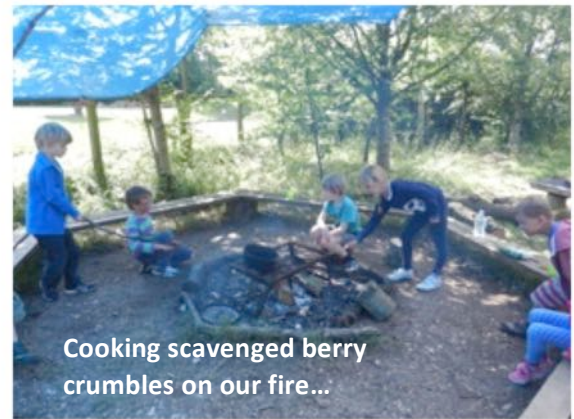
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50 DANGEROUS
THINGS CAMP

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED

We will be outdoors all day, whatever the weather, so your child will need to bring appropriate clothing. Please don't send them in anything they will be nervous about getting messy or damaged! For a UK Summer, appropriate clothing might mean:

- Activity type sandals or trainers your child is comfortable clambering about in
- Wellies and a spare pair of socks
- A waterproof jacket (definitely); fleece or pullover
- Sun hat / wooly hat
- Spare shorts or trousers / t-shirt
- An old shirt (in case we mess about with clay or mud)
- If it looks like it's going to be a sunny day please apply sunscreen to your child BEFORE they arrive for the day (see below for our sunscreen policy).



Although we will do our best to make sure your child doesn't end the day dressed in rags, please do not dress them in any clothes you'd rather didn't get dirty, smoky, smelly or possibly torn... sorry, in advance! These items will also be necessary, useful or fun to have:

- A towel (especially if it's hot as we'll have the sprinklers on)
- Sunscreen – which **we will apply** if we feel your child is beginning to burn in the sun and is not able to apply it themselves. If you are not able to supply sunscreen, we have hypoallergenic Factor 30 in our first aid kit and will use it if necessary. If you have any objection to this, please let us know.
- A named camera to record their adventures with.

Refreshments

- A named refillable water bottle. We provide juice with snacks and meals but encourage children to drink water at other times.
- A basic but generous packed lunch, with an ice block, which will help keep your child's food cool. We're very chilled out about cake and crisps etc., especially if they share with us... I like Frazzles. Just saying.

We cook on our open fire for most of the day, but a decent packed lunch is vital, especially as sometimes the children's experimental cooking is inedible. Be generous – being outdoors all day is hungry work!

VENUE AND TIMING

All sessions begin and end in the grounds of Sun Hill Infant School, which allows us to make use of the toilets and gain access to running water, the school's first aid room and a landline, should one be needed. Drop off is at the entrance to the school grounds, close to the gate, and pick up is at our 'base', which is the fabulous Pond Area in between the two schools.

Registration starts promptly at 9am, and we respectfully ask all parents and carers to be away from our base by 9.10am. Pick up is from 4.45pm in the afternoon, with last pick up at 5pm. We cannot guarantee to be on site before 4pm, so if you need to pick up earlier than that on the day, that's absolutely fine, but please call Julie's mobile (**07970 955 558**) first to find out where we are!

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Play Learning Life adheres to the Department for Education, Play England and the Health and Safety Executive's preferred approach risk assessment of play, which is the Risk Benefit Assessment. All of the activities offered are risk benefit assessed beforehand and we will only provide activities where we feel the **benefits outweigh the risks**. Please contact me for more details of this approach; we will happily supply you with examples of how this approach works. In the meantime, this [High Level Statement](#) from the HSE sets out the current guidance on risky play and will give you a sense of how (and why) we are advocating this approach.

In line with Ofsted guidance for care of children aged under 8, a 1:8 adult child ratio will be observed at all times, within reason (e.g. this may be affected by toilet breaks, first aid requirements etc.). There are no statutory requirements for ratios for over 8s. However, the nature of 50 Dangerous Things... camp means we choose to maintain at least this ratio for all ages so that children themselves benefit from our close attention, whether they are engaging in a construction project with real tools, or chilling out with their friends in a hammock they made from an old bedsheet, four pegs and one of Julie's old climbing ropes.

If your child feels unwell during the day, or suffers a minor injury (e.g. nettle sting, small cut or graze), we will administer first aid and assess the situation to establish whether you should be notified immediately or whether it can wait until the end of the day. If your child is taken more seriously ill, we will call you straight away on the number you leave with us. If there is an emergency, we will first call an ambulance, and then call you, so please ensure your child's emergency health and contact information is up to date.

Please be very clear that by its very nature, 50 Dangerous Things... camp is a risky, adventurous experience.

Whilst we make **every effort** to minimise the risk of serious injury of any kind, it is possible that your child will come home with a few cuts and bruises. Activities such as tree climbing, slack-lining, cooking on an open fire and taking a washing machine to pieces to find out how it works are not without risk – but by supporting children to try these at their own pace, we hope they this will help them be better equipped to deal with risk and adversity in future.

Children have been shown to be **very competent risk assessors** and our own experience tells us that at 50DT camp, children are keen to try new things but are ready and able to consider the risks first, before leaping into something new. Feedback from previous 50DT camps suggests that many parents were astonished and delighted to hear how their children rose to the challenge of being outdoors all day, participating in problematic and difficult activities – not to mention playing and working alongside children of different ages and abilities.

50DT camp is not like school, and it's not like normal play schemes. Children have opportunities to show competencies and leadership qualities they may never have even considered they had, and that may surprise you. We love seeing how our older participants support and enjoy playing with our youngest children. The sense of pride in their achievements is palpable, whether children are catching a newt, leaping from a high branch, lighting a fire with a fire steel or street dancing in the middle of Alresford.



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POLICIES AND STUFF

Copies of all relevant documentation will be available to view each day at 50DT – if you'd like to see them before then, just get in touch. It's important that you feel confident in our ability to care for your child, whilst encouraging them to do Dangerous Things... In common with other play schemes, our policies and records include, but are not confined to:

- Safeguarding
- Behaviour management
- Outings risk assessment / permission
- First aid and medicines
- Uncollected children policy
- Equalities and accessibility



FEES

50DT camp is not subsidised by the local authority (we wish it was!) and our staff are highly qualified, experienced and have specific skills that enable them to facilitate our programme. They are also ready to go the extra mile alongside your child to help them make the most of the opportunities available to them. Appropriate insurance for 50 Dangerous Things... camp is also fundamental, so your fee covers this too.

Children aged between 5 and 11 are welcome at 50 Dangerous Things... camp. If you are interested in something similar for older or younger children, please let us know, as we will be interested to establish whether there is demand for the future.

One child, one or two days	£36 per day
One child, three or more days	£33 per day
Two or more siblings	£33 per child per day

Please pay via BACs (info on the booking form) or by cheque **ONCE YOU HAVE RECEIVED AN INVOICE.** Payment must be made within 5 working days of invoice to secure a place.

CANCELLATION

- If you have to cancel your child's booking more than 15 working days ahead of the date booked, we will fully refund that day's fee.
- If you have to cancel and can do so with more than 5 working days' notice, we will refund 50% of that day's fee.
- If we get less than 5 working days' notice of cancellation, we will not be able to refund fees, sorry.



Please get in touch with Julie for a booking form:

- Email enquiries@playlearninglife.org.uk or call 07970 955 558