

RISK ASSESSMENT – PLANETS WORKSHOP

ACTIVITY:	EXPERIMENTING WITH ROCKETS.	DATE:	5.10.16
-----------	------------------------------------	-------	---------

PERSONS AT RISK- AFFECTED BY ACTIVITY:	Persons attending the workshop	NUMBER	0 - 30
ANY VULNERABLE PERSONS AFFECTED BY ACTIVITY:	Children	NUMBER	0 - 30

POTENTIAL HAZARDS		Assessment of Risk		
REF.		Low	Med	High
1	Potential for children to trip and fall over while carrying out rocket experiments.	x		
2	Using of vinegar, vitamin C tablets, alka-seltzer tablets and bicarbonate of soda – risk of ingestion, irritation to eyes, skin or respiratory tract	x		
3	Allergy to vinegar or bicarbonate of soda	x		
4	Risk of rockets exploding in children’s faces	x		

EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	
1.	Remove any potential trip hazards from experiment area and instruct children to walk at all times.
2.	Risks are minimal all chemicals are being used in very low amounts. Experiment should be carried out in a well ventilated room. Spillages should be cleaned up where possible with a dustpan and brush or damp cloth. Skin irritation can be helped by washing the area with warm soapy water. An eye wash or water should be available and used if any chemical gets in an individual’s eyes. Eyes should be rinsed for at least 15 minutes with water or eye wash. All chemicals can be disposed of in standard waste. Individuals should wear lab coats and eye protection to avoid contact of salt with eyes or skin. Chemicals will be aliquoted into beakers before the experiment starts to avoid the risk of spillage. Any potential trip hazards should be removed from the area.
3.	Find out if possible prior to the workshop if children are allergic to vinegar or bicarbonate of soda. If children are allergic to either of these chemicals assess the severity of the allergy. It may be possible for them to wear gloves to avoid skin contact or they can watch the rockets. All children should wear labs coats and safety glasses to reduce the risk of contact with the chemicals.
4.	To avoid rockets exploding in children’s faces they should be instructed to avoid looking straight over the rocket and to keep their faces away. Children should have a demonstration of how to safely prepare their rockets. All children who are carrying out the experiment must wear eye protection. A barrier should be made for children to retreat to (a safe distance away) where the risk of the rocket hitting them is low. Rockets should be set off in a tray. The larger rockets will be set off by an adult only and the children will be told behind the safety barrier for this part of the workshop. Children will be closely supervised for this activity and instructed to not let off the rockets unless told to do so.
5.	A first aider should be present at all times in case of an accident.
6.	A first aid kit should always be available in case of an accident.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL RISK	LOW	X	MEDIUM		HIGH	
------------------------------------	-----	---	--------	--	------	--

RISK RATING = SEVERITY x LIKELIHOOD		
Rating	SEVERITY of injury/disease	LIKELIHOOD of occurrence
HIGH	Fatality; major injury or illness causing long term disability	Certain or near certain to occur
MEDIUM	Injury or illness causing short term disability	Reasonably likely to occur
LOW	Other injury or illness	Unlikely to occur

ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES - (IF APPLICABLE)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	COMPLETION DATE
None required		

RESIDUAL ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL RISK	LOW	X	MEDIUM		HIGH	
-------------------------------------	-----	---	--------	--	------	--

Note: Re-assessment required if overall residual risk is High

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (Notes, comments, further details, outline procedures, safe systems of work, standards, drawings, etc.)			
The activity of making rockets is low risk. The risk will be kept to a minimum by using low volumes of the chemicals, wearing lab coats and safety glasses, demonstrating the safe way to make rockets, assessment of allergies, avoiding trip hazards, close supervision and keeping a safe distance from the rockets. The demonstration of the larger rockets will be by an adult only and children will be instructed to keep a safe distance away.			
Signature of responsible person:			Date:
			5.10.16
Assessor:	Mandy Hartley	Signature:	
Date Assessed:	5.10.16	Review Date:	5.10.17