



# **Gede Forest School**

## **Snake Precautionary Measures & Response**

*Grow With Us*

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### **Snake Awareness Training**

- All school staff, senior management staff and representatives from Gede Tropical Nursery (GTN) staff are trained on snake awareness by Watamu Snake Farm. Training will be repeated annually.
- School staff also make children aware that snakes may be present on site, and if a snake is seen it should not be approached or touched.

### **Regular Prevention Activities**

**Regular activities carried out by school and Gede Tropical Nursery staff to prevent snake incidents:**

- GTN staff clear forest paths once per week (usually at the weekend as forest walks take place on Monday).
- During forest walks, if children are collecting leaves or sticks, they are collected from the pathways.
- Children should wear closed toe shoes on days that activities in the forest are taking place (Monday is the usual day for forest walks).
- Check the school garden before any activities take place there. GTN staff should be informed by teachers before 8am each day that the garden will be used.
- Mondays – GTN staff check makekas & put carpets down in school.
- Saturdays – GTN staff hang up carpets.
- Every morning that the children will be at school, GTN staff clean & rake the school outdoor area & check all tyres (7.30am).
- Every morning, dogs enter the school compound for 5 minutes to run around (7.30am).
- Every morning, school staff do a visual check of the school roof & other parts of the school.
- Every day, school staff clean all areas thoroughly, particularly areas where food has been consumed.
- Bins that can be closed are used. Every day, all bins within the school compound are emptied by school staff.

### **Permanent Measures**

- The shade net that surrounds the school is dug 1 foot into the ground.
- The school gates are closed at the base.

## If a Snake is Seen on Site

- **School staff:** If a snake (or another dangerous animal or insect) is seen within the school, during a school activity elsewhere on site, or as staff are arriving or leaving the site, it should be reported to GTN staff and senior management. If there is any doubt about whether the snake is dangerous, children should be calmly taken away from the area. If the animal is known to be harmless, the children can observe it from a distance (5m+). A school staff member should keep the snake within their eye sight, until someone from the GTN staff has arrived to assist.
- **GTN staff:** If a snake has been seen by nursery staff or someone else on site, the location of the snake and identification if possible, should be reported to the school, so the area can be avoided.
- All snake occurrences should be reported to senior management so a decision can be made as to whether the Watamu Snake Farm is contacted to remove the snake from the property. No attempts to catch a snake should be made by anyone without consulting with senior management beforehand.

## In the Case that Someone is Bitten by a Snake

*Follow guidance from Watamu Snake Farm.*

### Step 1: Stay Calm

- Adrenaline will make the venom flow around the body faster.
- Call for help if no one is there already.

### Step 2: Transport to Hospital Quickly

- If there is a car onsite, use it.
- If there is not a car onsite, contact **E Plus Ambulance Rescue Service** (our package covers school staff & children): **0700 395 395** or **1514**, and provide individual cover number for the person affected.
- Watamu Hospital is the recommended hospital to go to and ask for **Dr. Erulu**.

### Step 3: Immobilise the Limb

(This can be done on the way to the hospital.)

- Stop it from moving, apply a pressure bandage.
- Apply a small ball of cloth to form a pad, bandage this directly over the bite site very firmly with an elastic bandage or long, wide piece of cloth.
- Apply a splint to the whole length of the bitten limb.

### Step 4: Call Watamu Snake Farm for Any Extra Assistance Needed

- **0707577748** (Snake Farm Duty Number) | **0723386558** (Kyle)

## In the Case that Someone Gets Venom in the Eye

*Follow guidance from Watamu Snake Farm.*

- Immediately wash the eye out with liberal volumes of any bland liquid (water, milk, beer or even urine). Take care not to rinse venom from one eye to the other.
- Try not to rub your eyes.
- Wear sunglasses to protect the eyes from bright light.

**Get medical advice:**



- Contact **E Plus Ambulance Rescue Service** (our package covers school staff & children): **0700 395 395** or **1514**, and provide individual E Plus cover number for the person affected.
- Take to **Watamu Hospital** and ask for **Dr. Erulu**.
- Call Watamu Snake Farm for any extra assistance needed: **0707577748** (Snake Farm Duty Number) | **0723386558** (Kyle)