

Text for JIVN Parents

At IVN Youth, we go into nature in a group. There are always at least two adult supervisors present who are familiar with the area, so we apply the four-eyes principle. We want children to experience nature so they enjoy it. Knowledge is less important to us. Searching for animals in the ground, finding mushrooms, a fox den. Discovering an exciting tree that they can climb if it's not dangerous. Jumping over a ditch or building a bridge. Sometimes we go off-path and the children find their own way under supervision. If you find a lot of branches, you can build a nice hut. Some children are more independent, others look for peers. It's allowed. Occasionally, we play a game in the woods. We believe that children are allowed to get dirty outside and sometimes come home with wet feet. Mud is fun. Playing and catching animals at the water's edge in shallow water is too.

As supervisors, we are always aware of potential dangers and warn the children. However, your child might get a scratch or a bump, or hurt themselves on blackberry bushes. It happens occasionally: the more challenge a child faces, the more cautious they become and the better they learn to assess risks. And they enjoy it so much! We believe these small risks are part of life. In 30 years of IVN youth activities, nothing more serious has ever happened, thankfully. We hope that you, as a parent, realize that something can happen and that you accept that. Check your child for ticks afterward.

If anything does happen, we have a first aid kit and your mobile number. In an emergency, one of the supervisors can accompany your child and take them home.

The IVN youth supervisors.