



Grove Street Risk-Benefit Assessment

Risk Benefit Document

Description of activity, principle or object, who might be at risk and what kind of harm.	Benefit or utility or related policy	Description of risk management and maintenance agreed	Nominated person	Action Date
<p>Children playing with heavy loose parts including large tyres, pallets and planks of wood. Potential for crushing type injuries to hands and feet, or straining type injuries associated with heavy lifting. Risk of serious injury relatively low where heavy lifting is done carefully.</p>	<p>Children able to lift and move heavy play parts and use in a safe, creative way. Imaginative play. Physical exercise, musculoskeletal development, core strength, sense of autonomy, potential for teamwork, opportunities to further extend play.</p>	<p>Children briefed in assemblies about safe holding, moving, lifting and stacking. Emphasise the importance of asking for help and working together when lifting heavy objects. Advise children on “Ready, steady, lift”, using bent knees and straight back. Heavy objects must not be carried above head height.</p> <p>Playtime staff apply principles of dynamic risk assessment and guide children in movement and use of heavier play parts.</p>	<p>SC, KH, CM, RB</p>	<p>18.5.23</p>
<p>Playing with pallets. From OPAL guidance doc 6.12: ‘The Main risks from pallet play usually come from unstable stacks, from toppling over when balanced edgewise on, slipping between gaps, from nails popping up, from slats breaking under pressure from stamping feet, or from minor splinter injuries caused by hands-on roughly sawn wood.’</p>	<p>From OPAL guidance doc 6.2: ‘Children can use pallets in many different ways; building forts, house, dens and structures, climbing on, sitting on, bracing other loose parts so they don’t easily move, as bridges over ditches, combining with large cable spools and planks to make mega-structures and as simple theatre stages for dancing or rehearsing a show on.’</p>	<p>Staff will check pallets for nails, significant damage, large splinters or sharp points before providing them to children. All pallets will then be checked for further damage on a weekly basis. Damaged pallets will be removed from the play environment until repaired or disposed of. Playtime staff briefed on inspecting pallets for damage and testing the stability of structures.</p> <p>Children briefed in assembly about what to look out for in terms of damage to pallets, removing damaged pallets from the play environment and</p>	<p>Play team and staff on duty After School Club</p> <p>SC, KH, CM, RB assembly</p> <p>Play time staff</p>	<p>18.5.23</p>



Grove Street Risk-Benefit Assessment

<p>Minor splinters are not considered a serious injury and are an accepted part of playing with rough sawn timber.</p>		<p>informing staff, and the following guidelines in respect of playing with pallets:</p> <p>The use of pallets on tarmac for standing on will be limited to a maximum fall height of 60cm (4 pallets high when laid flat on top of each other). Pallet structures for standing on above this height will only be allowed on grass and soil. Here a maximum fall height of 1.5m will be used.</p> <p>Children and staff should talk about and test the stability of all pallet structures before playing in them (e.g. dens) or on them. Agreed guidelines to initially have pallets stationary.</p> <p>Standing on pallet structures will be limited to those that are stable and strong, with pallets tied or braced together if necessary. Explicit lessons on play and the correct use of items. Collaborative and modelled play between children and staff.</p> <p>More permanent structures will be tested by staff for stability at least once or twice a week.</p>		
<p>Playing with tyres: From OPAL guidance doc (6.11) Potential injuries could come from nails left in tyres, protruding wires or little wear</p>	<p>Imaginative, creative play. OPAL guidance doc (6.11) 'Children can make houses, forts, shops etc from tyres and wood.' If provided in sufficient quantity children can make</p>	<p>Children briefed and reminded of stacking tyres and climbing on tyres no higher than themselves (on grass or soil)</p>	<p>Play assembly</p>	<p>18.5.23</p>



Grove Street Risk-Benefit Assessment

<p>left. With larger tyres, there is a risk of injury when moving. The risk with smaller tyres will arise from their use. Children will want to stack them, get inside them, roll them around and build large structures.</p>	<p>houses, forts, shops etc from tyres and wood. Children can roll them, which is good for core and upper body strengthening. Sitting in them, stacked up. Climbing and balancing on them to develop coordination. Tyres filled with sand, earth or stone and dust can be used as permanent borders for social spaces, sandpits or any loose material enclosure</p>	<p>Playtime staff apply principles of dynamic risk assessment and guide children in movement and use of heavier tyres.</p>	<p>Play time staff</p>	
<p>Playing with ropes. From OPAL guidance doc (6.6) 'The main dangers from rope is from looped rope suspended at height. If ropes are taken into the trees and bushes there needs to be more active supervision and better training with the children.'</p>	<p>From OPAL guidance doc (6.6) 'Ropes can be used for making rope swings, crafts, tying things together, pulling each other around, skipping, tug-of-war, jumping over and all kinds of object and imaginative play.'</p>	<p>Play Assembly on Rope play. One to one sessions with each class on rope play in the forest. Play time staff briefed on rope play and supervision across all zones.</p> <p>The following considerations are taken into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thicker rope is safer than thinner rope • Wires should not be in the play environment • Looped ropes in tree should be closely supervised • Looped ropes should be removed at the end of play • Ropes tied at height on fixed play equipment are under direct supervision. • Ropes tied on to branches should be moved monthly. 	<p>Play assembly Play time staff</p>	<p>21/9/23</p>
<p>Tree climbing. Guidance from OPAL doc (6.4) The main risk of tree</p>	<p>Guidance from OPAL doc (6.4) 'Tree climbing provides many benefits to</p>	<p>Suitable climbing trees identified and labelled with colourful ribbon to identify height.</p>	<p>Play assembly</p>	<p>25/5/23</p>



Grove Street Risk-Benefit Assessment

<p>climbing is the potential falling out of the tree. Also, falling on to someone else.</p>	<p>children and for many schools is the only affordable way to allow children to have opportunities for upper body strength and coordination. Tree climbing builds self-esteem, confidence, physical strength, hand-eye coordination, prediction, planning and provides opportunities for pride and a sense of achievement. The urge to be up high is very strong and instinctive in children especially as they gain confidence in their bodies.'</p>	<p>Children allowed to climb to a maximum of 1.5m (height of feet) grass or loose soil.</p> <p>Play assembly on safe tree climbing</p> <p>Guidance (6.4) shared with children: The rule of three Keep close to the trunk Stay off the dead - Test weak branches Always think about falling If it doesn't feel right, don't do it Never help up, only talk down</p> <p>Guidance shared with play time staff. Reviewed regularly.</p>	<p>Play time staff</p> <p>Parent play workshop</p>	
<p>Playing with sticks as guns or swords (see doc 6.8). Potential for severe eye injuries from sticks being waved at eye level or impaling type injuries from falling on to sticks whilst running. Whilst there is no significant risk of injury from sticks being used as guns, there may be concerns from parents about this type of play behaviour.</p>	<p>Pleasure and enjoyment, friendship, comradeship, peer attachment, emotion regulation, self control, imagination and fantasy play, playing with concepts such as right and wrong / heroes and villains / life and death.</p>	<p>Sticks are not allowed to be used as real weapons and will be taken away from children who do so. Where sticks are used as pretend swords, children need to be careful of who is around them and allow plenty of space so that they do not inadvertently hit another child. Children must not swing sticks around where there are other children close by who are not involved in the game. Sticks should only hit other sticks or inanimate objects.</p> <p>Play assembly on playing with sticks</p> <p>Playtime staff to supervise and intervene if children's behaviour is deemed reckless or if</p>	<p>Play assembly</p> <p>Play time staff</p>	<p>18.5.23 And Ongoing</p>



Grove Street Risk-Benefit Assessment

		they are unaware of the risks they are posing to others.		
Rough and tumble play. Playing fighting is unlike real fighting in that it usually occurs between friends, through voluntary engagement, and involves turn taking and exaggerated fake moves. However play fighting can also tip into real fighting and children may still accidentally hurt each other while playing. Serious injury is unlikely from play fighting except if children get carried away.	Pleasure and enjoyment, friendship, comradery, peer attachment, emotion regulation, self control, empathy	Rough and tumble allowed on the grass when it is between friends, when all involved are doing so voluntarily, where children are being careful and purposefully avoiding hurting each other. Playtime staff to discuss difference between play fighting and real fighting and when to intervene. Play assembly on rough and tumble (perhaps only deemed necessary if it becomes a problem)	Play assembly Play time staff	18.5.23 And Ongoing
Digging in the earth. Low risk except if forks are used for digging, or if children unearth some kind of hazardous material. Injury could occur if a child is inadvertently hit by a spade when another is working hard at digging.	Physical strength and exercise, determination and perseverance, sense of satisfaction, exploratory play, playing with the elements, extend opportunities for imaginative and creative playing.	No forks to be provided for digging. Spades and trowels only. Digging only allowed in designated areas. Children to report anything unusual they find. Staff to supervise regularly, ensuring children have sufficient space. Play assembly on safe digging, emphasising the importance of giving each other room. Children not to eat anything they dig up!	Mrs A assembly briefing. Play team Play Coordinator	29.4.22 And Ongoing
Children playing in the forest. A multitude of potential trip hazards and potential for minor cuts and grazes. Risk of eye injury from sharp branches at eye level. Nettles present risk of stings but these should be considered as minor risks. Children could become ill if	Woodland provides excellent opportunities for den-making, shelter and play "in corners". The woodland is big enough to accommodate a large number of children and so disagreements over "territory" will be minimised. Lots of opportunities for imaginative and creative play,	Culvert securely fenced off with sign posted no entry. Large logs used to create an informal barrier that children should not venture beyond.	Assembly briefing. Play time staff	Ongoing



Grove Street Risk-Benefit Assessment

<p>they ingested plants that were poisonous. The culvert in the forest could present a significant risk of drowning if not securely fenced off.</p>	<p>playing in and with nature, tree climbing, digging, as well as shade during hot or wet weather.</p>	<p>Children encouraged to trample down nettles within the playable area when they have wellies on</p> <p>Play assembly on playing safely in the forest. Emphasise not eating any plants and staying within agreed boundaries</p> <p>children briefed and play time staff ensure children stay in bounds.</p> <p>Woodland checked daily. Unsafe materials removed.</p>		<p>Daily</p>
<p>Children playing in different environment with new potential dangers: There is an increased risk of minor injury to children who may require immediate first aid.</p>	<p>Increased freedom to play will foster more creative play and ensure children learn to manage risks more effectively themselves. Imaginative and creative play</p>	<p>All play time staff will carry their own 1st aid pouches and 1st aid records. children with minor injuries (scratches and minor abrasions) will be treated in situ. More serious injuries will be referred to SLT who will deal with as appropriate, if the injury requires parental contact or hospital treatment.</p>	<p>All play time staff</p>	<p>On going</p>
<p>Children playing on scooters – over the playground and on the grass. There is an increased risk of falling off. Potential injury falling and hurting themselves or bumping in to other children.</p>	<p>Children enjoyment, imaginative and creative play. Benefits of exercise and movement.</p>	<p>Children briefed in assembly about using the scooters and how to store them correctly. Playtime staff apply principles of dynamic risk assessment and guide children in movement and use of scooters. Playworkers check scooters daily for wear/tear/breakages.</p> <p>We have not asked children to wear a helmet. OPAL guidance (6.9) states, <i>'Compulsory cycle helmets are likely to damage children's health more than they increase safety. Children's use</i></p>	<p>Play assembly All play time staff</p>	<p>On going</p>



Grove Street Risk-Benefit Assessment

		<i>of bicycles/scooters is different from adults. Children's healthy outdoor activity and freedom to play will be even more restricted by wearing a helmet. Where the risks to a healthy lifestyle are greater than the risks from "safety" measures then health should take priority – particularly when the increase safety is marginal at best.'</i>		