

# Risky Play and Children's Safety:



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(2001)

## Balancing Priorities for Optimal Child Development

# Do you remember how you used to play?

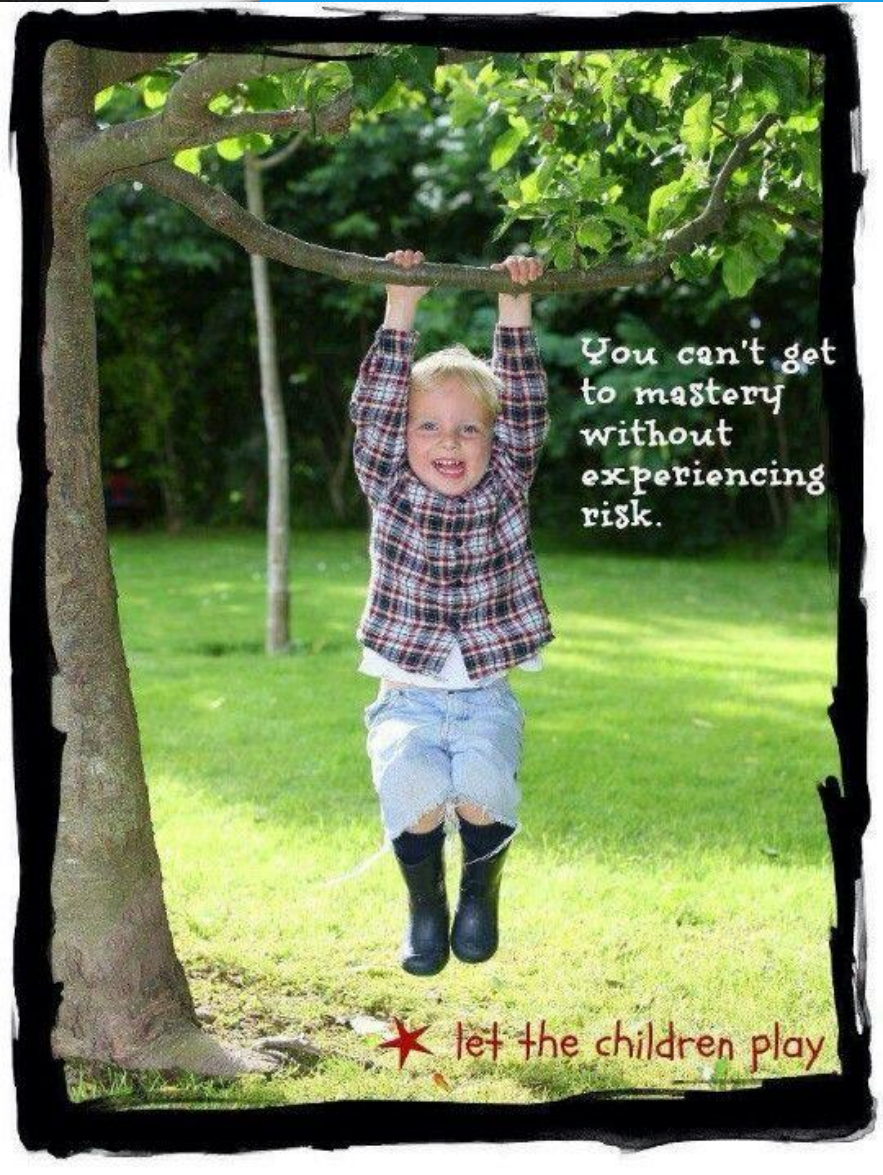





# Did it look like this?











"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood" - Fred Rogers

# HEALTH & SAFETY COMMISSION

PROPOSED  
CHILD PROTECTION  
COTTON WOOL SUIT



IT DOESN'T LOOK SAFE TO ME  
AT ALL - HIS FACE IS TOTALLY  
EXPOSED TO DANGER

Search ID: cman64

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# **RULES OF PLAYGROUND**

**— Play to have Fun —**

**NO RUNNING  
NO JUMPING  
NO BOUNCING  
NO BAD LANGUAGE  
NO VANDALISM**

**PLEASE REPORT ANY DAMAGE  
TO 1300 225 577**

**ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**PERSONS 70KG OR OVER**

**ARE RESTRICTED FROM**

**PLAYING ON STRUCTURES**

**ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL ACCEPTS**

**NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSS OR INJURY.**

**BY ORDER**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

# Could outdoor play spaces be too safe?

Boredom, no challenge - leads to children staying inside playing video games.





# Balancing safety and risks

The challenge is to eliminate HAZARDS:

Hazard – hazardous risk is the source of harm that is not obvious to the child

NOT TO eliminate RISK:

Risk – the child recognise and evaluate the challenge and decide on a course of action that is not dangerous but still involves an element of risk.



# The sad truth about standardisation





# Why do we do this?









# RISK BENEFIT

<b>Team/Dept.</b>	
<b>Activity being Assessed</b>	
<b>Assessor (Print Name)</b>	
<b>Benefits to the children (specific to the activity)</b>	<b>Possible Hazards (What are the risks? What are the hazards and the harm that may arise)</b>



## Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation guide

David Ball, Tim Gill and Bernard Spiegel



department for  
children, schools and families

# The 7 c's of play areas

- Character
- Context
- Connectivity
- Change
- Chance
- Clarity
- Challenge





# International examples and forerunners

European Countries:

Australia:

Canada:



*promoting the value of play*





**“We don’t stop playing because  
we grow old; we grow old  
because we stop playing.”**

**George Bernard Shaw**