



Springbank Primary School Outdoor play policy

Introduction

The early years' outdoor learning area provides opportunities for children to engage in active play in addition to experiencing quiet reflective areas and environmental zones.

Opportunities for climbing and balancing are planned for as part of our delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Safe Use of equipment

Supervision

Children will be supervised at all times whilst using outdoor play equipment within sight and hearing of staff. Risk assessments will be conducted to determine the appropriate number of adults required to supervise the outdoor play area. Staff will be familiar with the equipment, rules of use and the ability of the children.

General Guidelines

- The children will be educated on the use of climbing equipment.
- Staff will ensure that outdoor play equipment is visible and will be appropriately supervised when in use.
- Staff will take the responsibility to make regular checks for defects and report them as appropriate.
- Scrambling and climbing elements will not exceed 1.6 metres, for children below 5.
- Interest, challenge and enjoyment should be planned to be achieved without the need for height itself.
- Structures should be spaced clear of each other to prevent one activity interfering with another. They will be clear of walls, fences etc.

- Suppliers of new equipment must supply information relating to surfacing requirements, intended age range, risk assessment, installation instructions, servicing and maintenance instructions.
- Staff have a responsibility to ensure the school and behaviour policy is consistently delivered.
- Consideration needs to be given to weather conditions, outdoor play equipment should not be used during wet or icy conditions.
- Where equipment is sited on grassed areas it should be kept out of use in wet weather and for an appropriate length of time afterward to allow the ground to sufficiently dry.
- Apparatus must only be used at appropriate times when supervised. Parents need to be informed that the apparatus is not to be used before or after school times.

Clothing / Footwear

Suitable clothing should be worn. Hazards can arise from - unfastened coats, woollen gloves, scarves, ties etc.

- Scarves will be worn inside coats.
- Gloves removed for climbing.
- Sun hats - a notice to parents re: use of sun cream and covering the shoulders will be sent.

Appropriate footwear must be worn, Hazards arise from - slippery soles, open toed and sling back sandals, heels, untied laces etc. If staff feel that footwear is unsuitable they will use their discretion to restrict a child from that area and contact with parents will be made after the session to ensure appropriate footwear is provided.

Zoning of Activities

Consideration will be given to a range of activities occurring within the outdoor area.

- Ball games will be sited away from the climbing area.
- Wheeled toys will be kept away from the climbing area.

Inspection and Maintenance

For new equipment a post installation inspection is arranged.
At Springbank Primary School, all outdoor play equipment is inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Our inspections are on 3 levels.

Level 1 Checks

Daily / pre-use by all staff. These are recorded on our daily risk assessment. Concentrating on the following points:

- No evidence of obvious wear / damage.
- Area is safe from obvious health hazards e.g. needles, glass, faeces etc.
- Impact absorbing surfaces no cuts, tears etc.
- All fastenings tightly secured.
- Uprights unbroken and firm in the ground.

Where any defects / hazards are identified, appropriate steps will be taken to prevent use until satisfactorily resolved. All hazards will be recorded in the hazard incident book located in the Head Teachers office.

Level 2 Checks

A more thorough check to be conducted termly by the Site Manager

Level 3 Checks

A detailed certified inspection is carried out and formally recorded.
(Sportsafe uk)



Outdoor Play daily Checklist

Day Month of:	Area safe from health hazards, faeces, glass etc.	No evidence of wear / damage to equipment	No cuts/ tears on safety surface or placed mats.	All fastenings tightly secured.	Uprights unbroken and firm in the ground
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