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Children's Play

Play is absolutely essential for ensuring:

- Their physical and emotional growth
- Their intellectual & educational development
- Their social & behavioural skills
- Their creative skills



Why Playgrounds?

Children under 15 years old represent approximately 20% of the UK population

Children play outside more than any other age group

Children learn, develop and grow through play

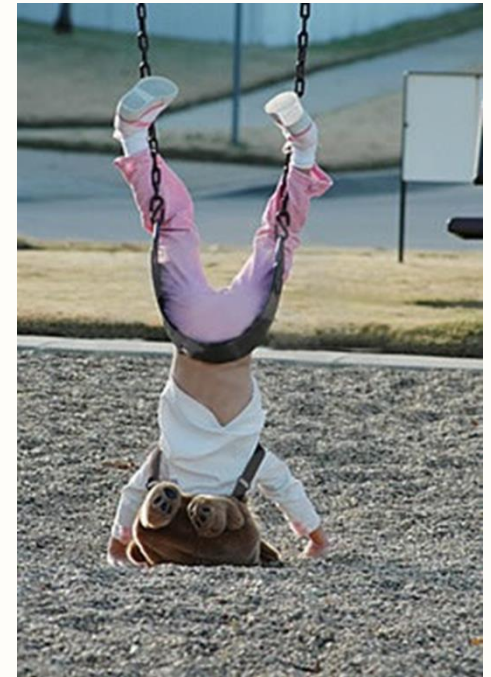
Children need places to play which are:

- Accessible
- Stimulating
- Safe



Accidents in the play environment

- Playing is about 'doing', and mistakes will happen
- By 'doing' and experimenting, children improve their skills and confidence.
- Playgrounds should be challenging, both physically and mentally
- Play is about exploring these challenges and solving problems



- Play is about practising new skills in environments where risk can be managed
- Children develop differently, make unrealistic assessments or are over confident
- Injuries can be reduced, not eliminated
- Without challenge, children go elsewhere



Injuries at play

- Approximately 185,000 annually
- Double between May & September
- Peak ages 9 – 10 year olds
- Mainly boys, but girls becoming increasingly involved in more risky play
- Mostly minor



Location of Play Injuries

Public playgrounds

15%



Accident causes

Falls	49%
Collisions	36%
Cuts	5%
Miscellaneous	10%



Injury Pyramid

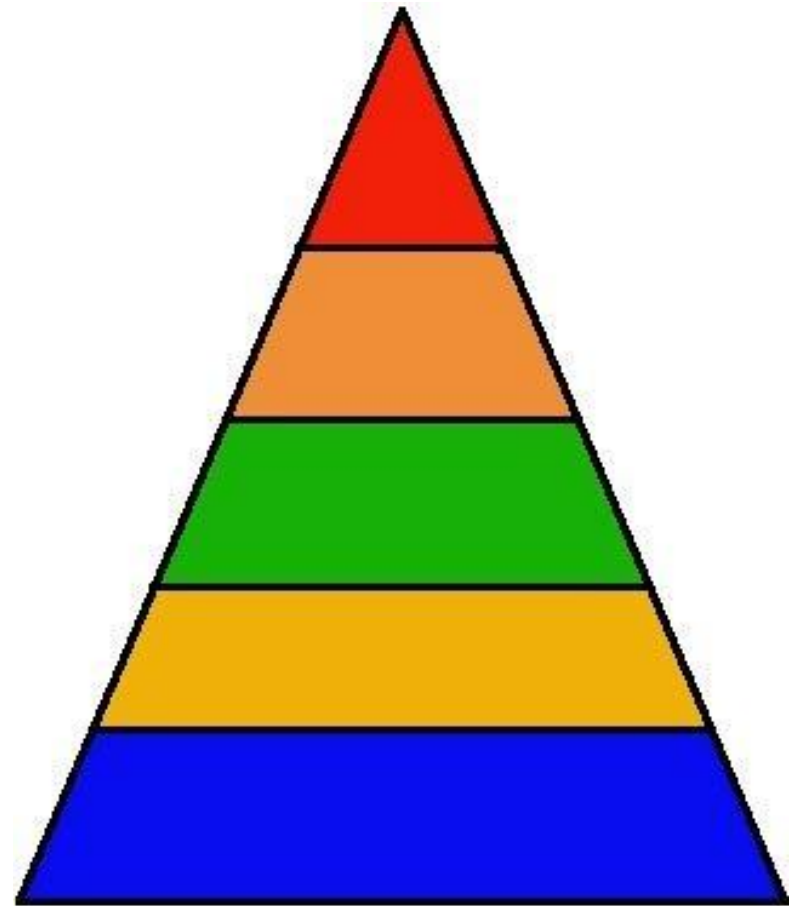
Fatality

Skull fractures/Brain damage

Amputation & permanent disability

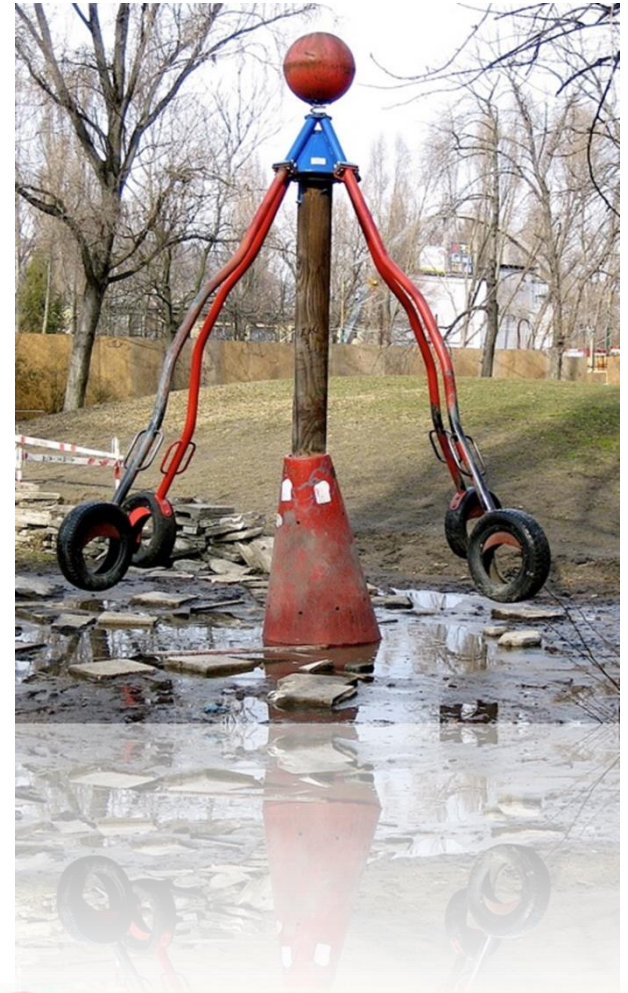
Limb fractures, serious injuries

Minor cuts, sprains, bruises & abrasions



Injury causes (management)

- Poor site planning
- Incorrect layout
- Incorrect age-group selection
- Incorrect equipment design
- Incorrect installation
- Incorrect surface
- Poor inspection & maintenance



Injury causes (user)

- Lack of supervision
- 'Misuse' of the play equipment
- Unsuitable clothing or shoes
- Weather conditions



BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177



Other Standards

- BS EN 15312 Free access multi-sports equipment (MUGA's)
- BS EN 14974 Facilities for users of roller sports equipment (Skate Parks)
- BS EN 14960 Inflatable play equipment - Safety requirements and test methods.
- BS EN 16899 Parkour equipment (RPII/API guidance)
- BS EN 16630 Outdoor Fitness Equipment



3.25 Routine Visual Inspection

Inspection intended to identify obvious hazards that can result from vandalism use or weather conditions.

Typical hazards can take the form of broken parts or broken bottles.

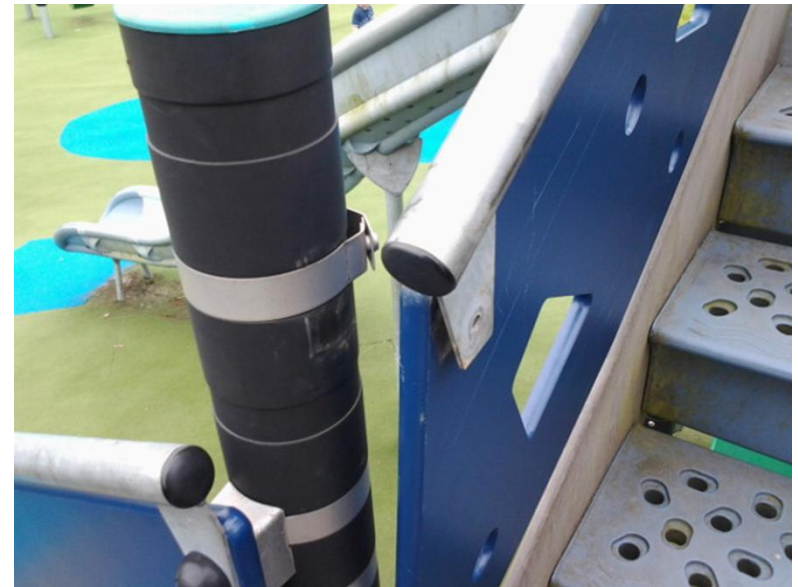
Inspections normally undertaken on a daily/weekly basis



3.26 Operational Inspection

Inspection more detailed than a routine visual inspection, to check the operation and stability of the equipment

- Typical checks include an examination of wear.
- Effects of weather
- Rotting or corrosion



Inspections normally undertaken on a monthly/quarterly basis

3.27 Annual Main Inspection

Inspection, at intervals not exceeding 12 months, intended to establish the overall level of safety of the equipment, foundations and surfaces.

- Effects of weather
- Rotting or corrosion
- Any change in the level of safety of the equipment as a result of repairs made, or of added or replaced components.
- Risk assessment recommended

RPII ANNUAL INSPECTOR LEVEL



Post Installation Inspection

- Carried out immediately after installation
- Should be Pre-Handover
- Standards Compliance
- Installation Issues

RPII ANNUAL INSPECTOR LEVEL



Equipment Purchasing/Inspection

API - Association of Play Industries

BS EN 1176 - Certification

Advice & Guidance

Competent Person

Who should inspect?

RPII Accredited Annual Inspector Outdoor

