Categories of Risky Play in the Outdoors

- GREAT HEIGHTS
- HIGH SPEED
- DANGEROUS TOOLS
- DANGEROUS ELEMENTS
- ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE
- DISAPPEAR/GET LOST

Questions to Consider When Incorporating Opportunities for Risky Play

What is your organization’s mission?

What is your risk appetite (how much risk do kids need to be exposed to for you to fulfill your mission?)

What is your risk tolerance (what level of risk are you willing to accept?)

Risk Management Scenario Exercise Notes:

What are the good risks and bad risks that could be present in the scenario, and how would you mitigate them?

Scenario 1:

Scenario 2:

Scenario 3:
Steps in Creating a Risk Management Protocol for Nature Play and Learning Areas

1. Determine applicable design standards (if any) and standards of care in your jurisdiction.
2. Engage your insurer or risk manager.
3. Conduct a Risk Assessment and eliminate hazards presenting unreasonable risk of harm within a designated play area.
4. Develop a risk assessment of natural features within a designated play area.
5. Document and evaluate all incidents.
6. Maintain records of inspections and incident reports coupled with regular staff evaluations and recorded response.
7. Communicate with play area users.
8. Conduct a Risk Assessment and eliminate hazards presenting unreasonable risk of harm within a designated play area.

Resources and References


*Nature Play and Learning Places* and the *Kids Dig Dirt! Green Paper* will be available in the session folder on the InterActivity “Basecamp” website after the conference!