Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia
Western Australia

Naturally Kids Play

FDCA 2022 National Conference

Who are Kidsafe?

- Kidsafe is the leading independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting safety and preventing childhood injuries and accidents.
- Kidsafe are a national organisation with representation in each state.

- Registered Training Organisation – National Provider Number 52376

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What is Nature Play?

- The elements of a playground consisting of natural, non-manufactured items that are incorporated into the playground, including items such as logs, boulders, living plant materials, and surfaces, changes of level and other landscape elements.

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Benefits of Nature Play

- Children who play regularly in natural settings are sick less often.
- Children who spend more time outside tend to be more physically active and less likely to be overweight.
- Children who play in natural settings are more resistant to stress; have lower incidence of behavioural disorders, anxiety and depression; and have a higher measure of self-worth.

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Benefits of Nature Play

- Children who play in natural settings play in more diverse, imaginative and creative ways and show improved language and collaboration skills.
- Bullying behaviour is greatly reduced where children have access to diverse nature-based play environments.
- Symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorder are reduced after contact with nature.

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Why do we have Australian Playground Standards?

Developed to provide guidelines for the:

- -Design
- -Installation
- -Maintenance
- -Operation

Not intended to provide 'risk free' environments

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Risk and the Australian Standards

Risk taking is an essential feature of play provision and of all environments in which children legitimately spend time playing. Play provision aims to offer children **the chance to encounter acceptable risks** as part of a stimulating, challenging and controlled learning environment.

Play provision should aim at managing the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from serious harm.

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Risk and the Australian Standards

In play provision exposure to **some degree of risk may be of benefit** because it satisfies a basic human need and gives children the chance to **learn about risk and consequences in a controlled environment.**

Children need to learn to cope with risk and this may lead to bumps and bruises and even occasionally a broken limb.

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Risk and the Australian Standards

The aim of this standard is first and foremost **to prevent accidents with a disabling or fatal consequence,** and secondly **to lessen serious consequences** caused by the occasional mishap that inevitably will occur in children's pursuit of expanding their level of competence, be it socially, intellectually or physically.

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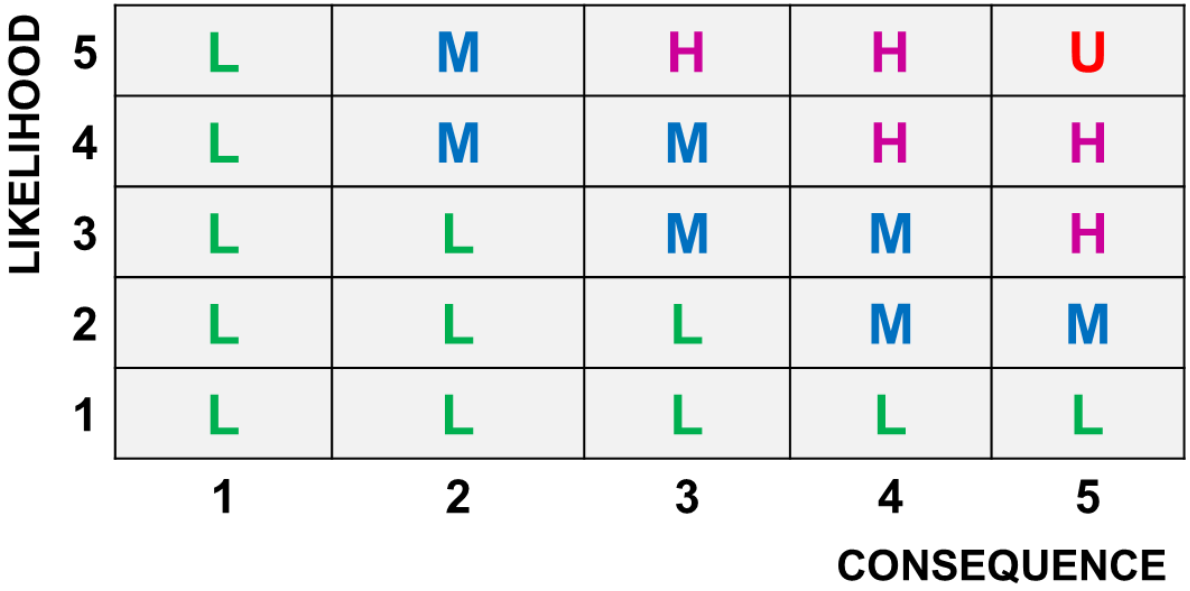
Risk Level Matrix



Risk Level		Value
L	Low Risk	1 to 7
M	Medium Risk	8 to 12
H	High Risk	13 to 20
U	Unacceptable	> 20

Likelihood of an injury is rated as:	
Rare (highly unlikely event)	1
Unlikely (conceivable event)	2
Possible (could occur event)	3
Likely (almost certain event)	4
Almost certain (will occur event)	5

The potential consequences of an injury is rated as:	
Little or no injury	1
Minor injury requiring first aid	2
Moderate injury causing absence from school	3
Serious injury with long term consequences	4
Death or major disability	5

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Risk Benefit Assessment

- A tool to aid risk management that explicitly brings together the positive and negative dimensions of risk associated with play.

RISK-BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

Activity:	Tree Climbing	
Date of assessment:	9th December 2012	
Location:	School Grounds – Pre Primary Area	
Assessment undertaken by:		
Approved by:		
Signature:		
BENEFITS OF ACTIVITY:	o Building self confidence o Upper body strength activity o Physical motor skills o Problem solving skills o Learning about tree characteristics o Spending time in nature reduces cortisol levels o Children will learn strengths and limitations o Encourages scientific interests and discovery (bugs, bark etc)	
Hazard	**Precaution**	**Comment**
Dead Wood	• Removes dead wood branches when found • Inform children of the fragility of dead wood – likely to break, encourage children to monitor.	
Slippery Surfaces	• Check condition of climbing surfaces prior to activity • Evaluate weather conditions linked to hazard • Inform children of the hazards and allow self-monitoring	
Fall Heights	• Children self-assess abilities • Children and staff monitor Landin surfaces for obstacles • Staff support children when required/requested-hand held etc • Use a marker as a height boundary.	
Protruding branches	• Children self-assess climbing location • Change climbing location or remove branches if deemed too high risk.	

Risk Benefit Assessment

A playground may be opened if it contains non-conformances that do not present unacceptable risk to the users.

AS 4685.0: 2017 Playground equipment and surfacing

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Early Years Learning Framework

- Spaces with plants, trees, edible gardens, sand, rocks, mud and water invite open ended interactions, spontaneity, risk taking, exploration, discovery and connection with nature.

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Education and Care Services National Regulations

The approved provider of a centre-based service must ensure that the outdoor spaces provided at the education and care service premises allow children to explore and experience the natural environment.

Education and Care Services National Regulations 113
Outdoor space – natural environment

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Quick Safety Tips

- 600mm fall height requires safety surfacing

If moving equipment is less than 600mm high it **does** require IAS

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Undersurfacing

- Loose fill should be installed at a depth of 300mm
- Acceptable undersurfacing is non compacting sand, mulch, pea gravel, synthetic grass, wet pour rubber

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Quick Safety Tips

1800mm is the recommended height for climbing equipment for early childhood

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Quick Safety Tips

3000mm is the recommended height for climbing equipment for ages 6 and up

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Entrapments

Ensure there are no:

- Head entrapments
- Finger entrapments
- Whole body entrapments

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Shade and Sun Protection

Playgrounds should be designed with areas of effective summer shade from either trees or built elements, or both. The design should take into account the reflective index of various surfaces and materials to minimize UV exposure. The availability of some unfiltered outdoor sun all year round is desirable.

AS 4685.0:Playground equipment and surfacing
6.3.9 Shade and sun protection

The approved provider of a centre-based service must ensure that outdoor spaces provided at the education and care service premises include adequate shaded areas to protect children from overexposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

Education and Care Services National Regulations 114
Outdoor space – shade

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Timber Treatments

CCA treated timber no longer acceptable
Alternative treatments:

- ACQ (Alkaline Copper Quarternary)
- LOSP (Light Organic Solvent Preservative)
- CA (Copper Azole)

Timber Oiling

- Enrich Decking Oil

Termite Treatments:

- Altriset (5 – 8 years)

Bitumen Paint:

- Crommelin Water Based Bitumen Paint

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Fact Sheet

TIMBER TREATMENTS

The use of CCA (Copper Chromium Arsenate) treatment for some types of timber products is restricted in Australia. Please consider the following information when choosing timber for construction.

What is CCA?

Timber is a common material used when constructing play spaces. The life of timber is significantly increased when treated with a preservative, from a few years to 25 years or more. Preserving treatments protect the timber from decay, fungi, wood boring insects and termites. Australia's most widely used wood preservative to date has been CCA (Copper Chromium Arsenate). CCA uses copper to control fungi, arsenic compounds to control termites and chromium to fix the copper and arsenic compounds in the wood.
In Australia the use of CCA and other preservatives are approved and regulated by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Treatment specifications are set by Australian Standards.

Why has it been banned?

The APVMA completed a review of CCA treated timber and announced in April 2005 that CCA treated timber shall no longer be used for new construction of playground equipment, domestic and patio decking, handrails, garden and park furniture, picnic tables and exterior seating. The major concern has been the potential for leaching out of arsenic compounds from the treated timber.

While the APVMA did not find evidence to conclude that CCA treated timber posed unacceptable risks to the community, neither could they find sufficient quality scientific evidence supporting its safety in certain situations, particularly those where direct and frequent contact with children was likely.

AS4685:2014 states that timber treated with CCA or Creosote shall not be used.

When is it appropriate to use CCA treated timber?

For typical outdoor situations such as fencing, deck supports and substructure, landscaping sleepers and logs, and other cases where minimal direct human contact is expected, CCA treated timber products are appropriate and readily available.
However, where frequent direct human contact is expected or the end user prefers a non-arsenic product, timber treated with alternative preservation technologies are available.

Partner:
Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

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So what can we do???

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Loose Parts

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KNOWN TO SOME AS A CABLE REEL. KNOWN TO EDUCATORS AS THE HOLY GRAIL OF LOOSE PARTS

@InspiredEC

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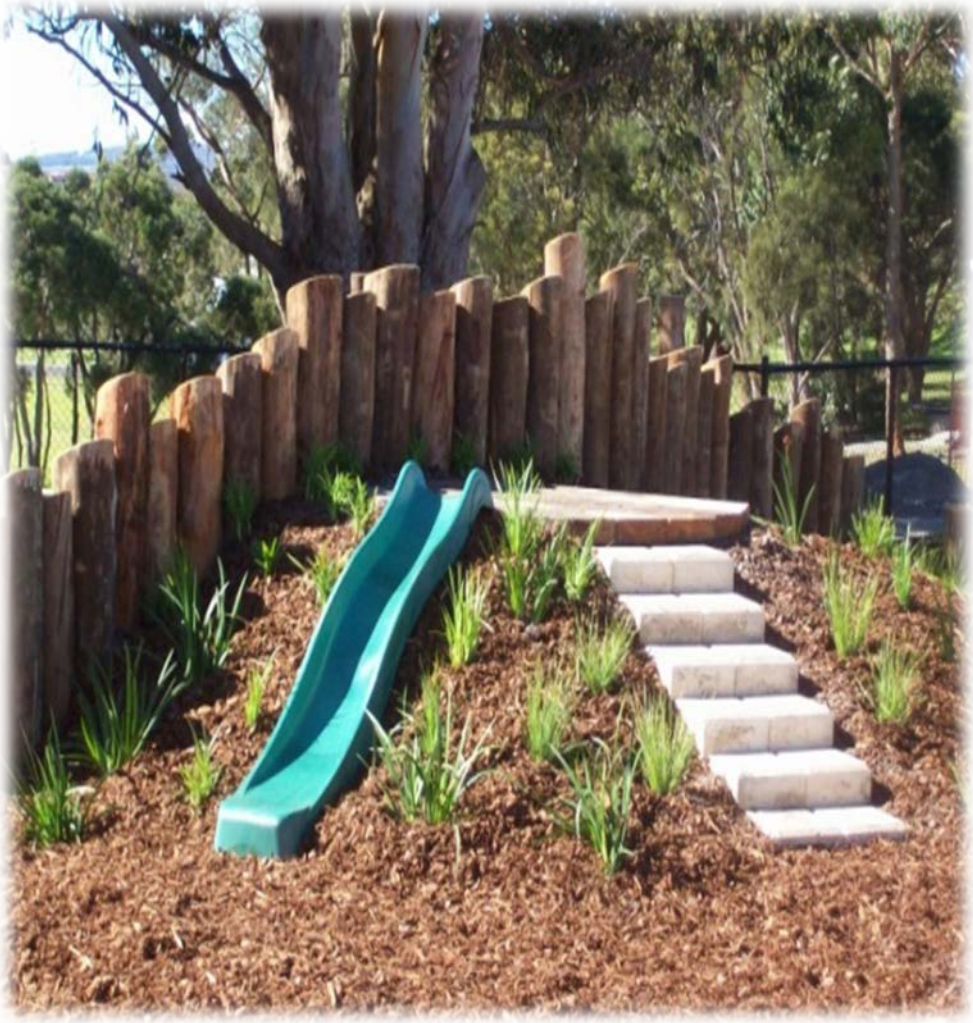
Slides



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Swings

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Boats

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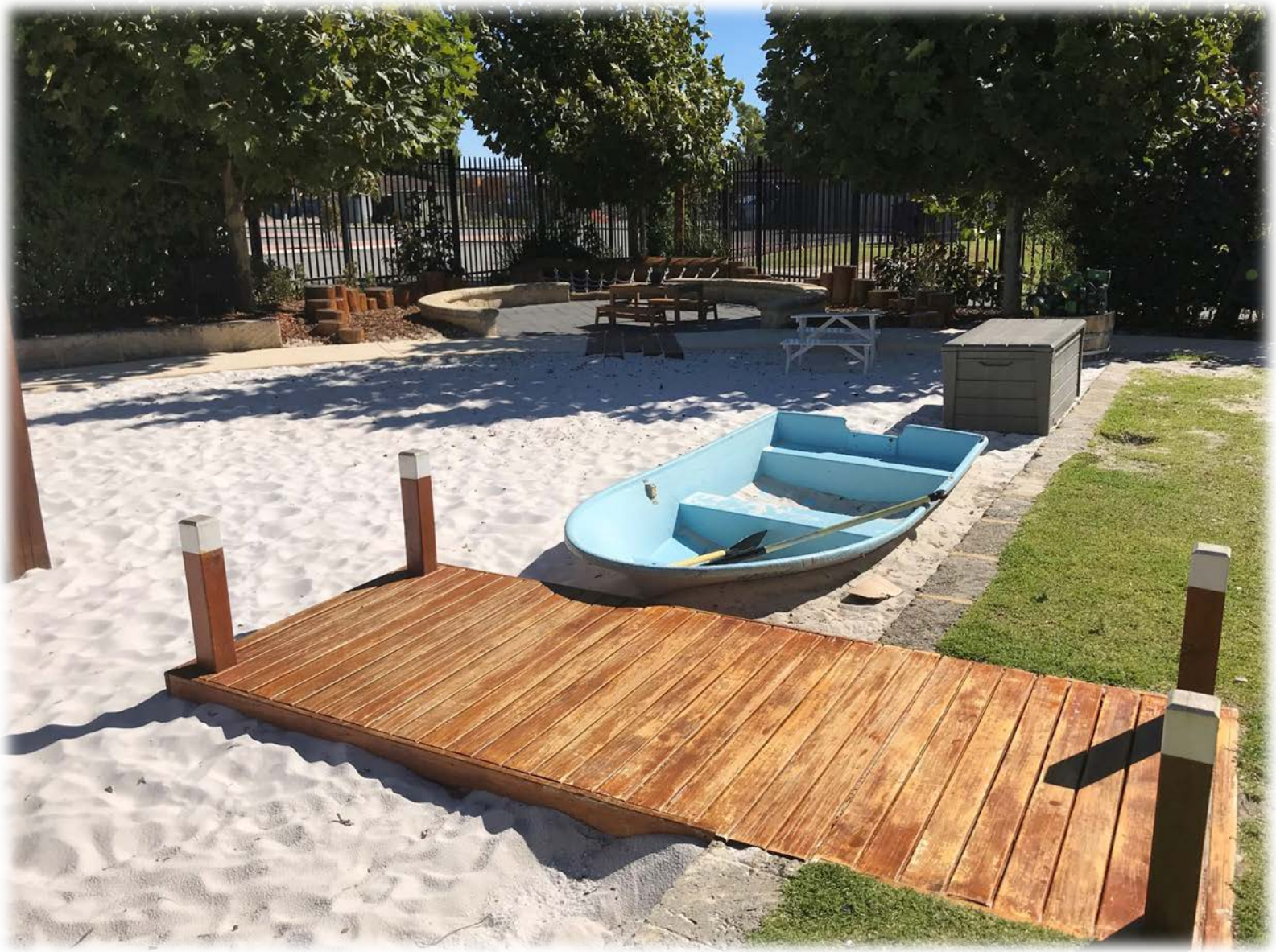

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Sand Play

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Musical Play

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Waterplay

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Creek Beds

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Bike Tracks

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Climbers

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Tunnels

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Blackboards

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Murals

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Cubbies

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Balance

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Tree Cookies

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Climbing Logs

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Landscaping

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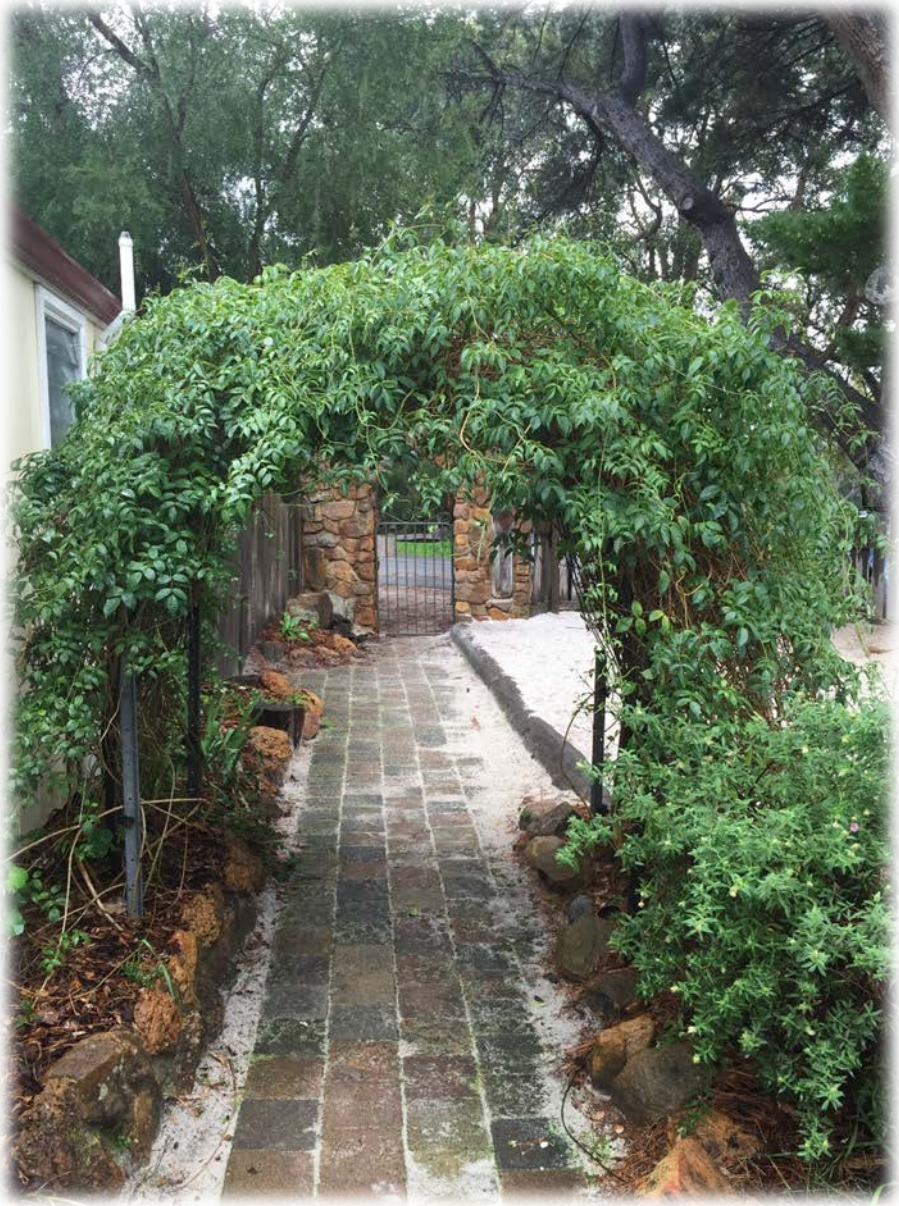

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Outdoor Kitchens

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Creatures

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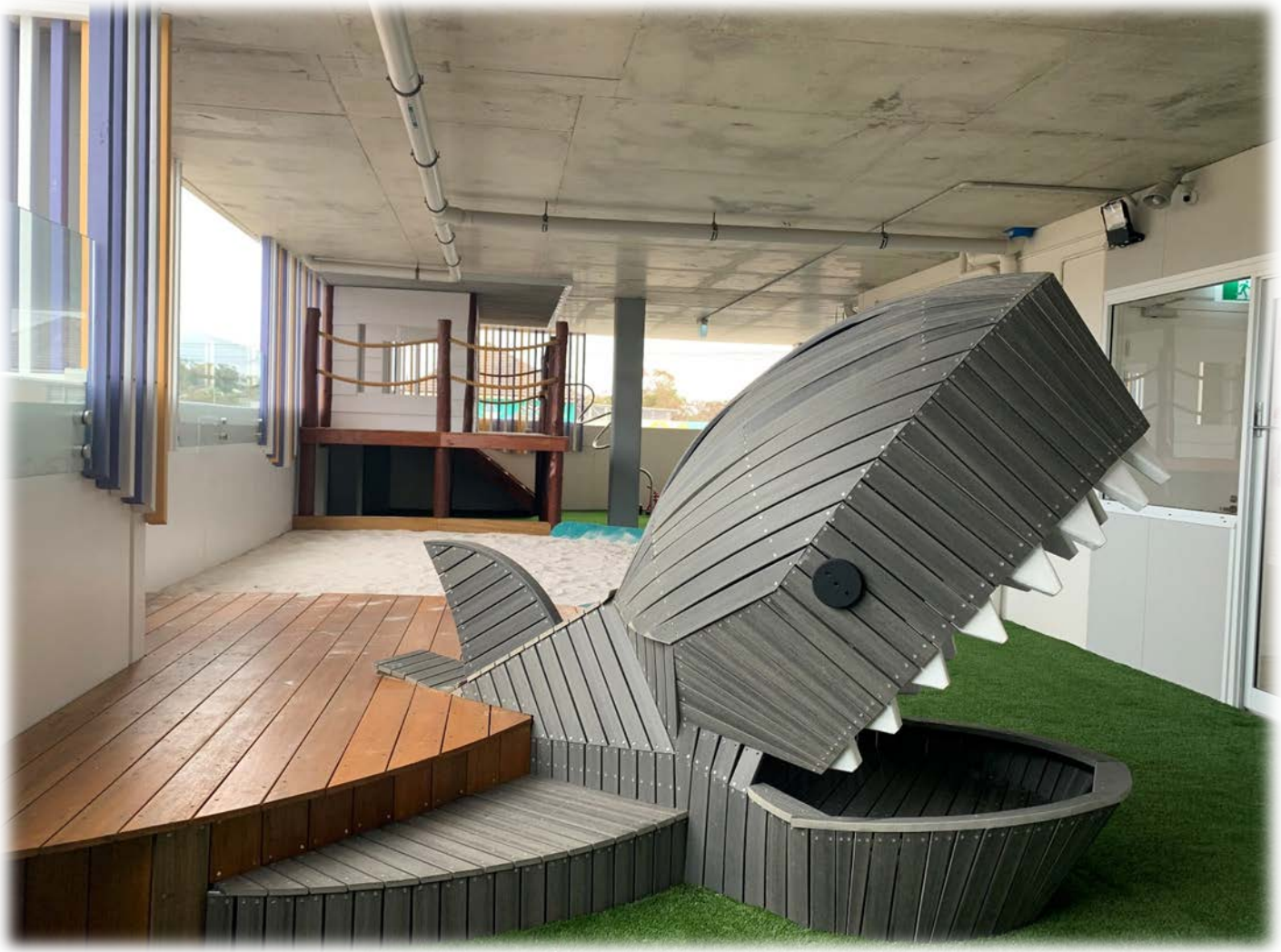

Trucks & Tractors

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Ropes

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DUNCRAIG PS

$16,000

- Climbing Nets
- Balance Ropes
- Creek Bed
- Log Weave
- Steppers
- Treehouse Platform
- Outdoor Classroom

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MAIDENS PARK

$2,200

- Log Climber
- Tyre Path
- Balance Rocks
- Outdoor Classroom
- Balance Logs

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$30

ST JOSPEHS

- Balance Logs
- Seating
- Fire Pit
- Musical Wall
- Abacus
- Water Play
- Herb Garden
- Steppers

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Consultation

- With the kids
- With the parents
- With industry experts
- With local community

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Inspect what you already have…….

- Existing equipment – can you work with it?
- Safety Inspection
- Manufactured + Nature

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Gather Your Ideas

- Collect pics of playspaces
- Look at other spaces

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Vote for your Favourite!

- Coloured photos
- Sticky dots
- Different colours
- Include adults
- Include in newsletter

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Draw up a Plan

Who can help us?

- Kidsafe
- Rotary & Lions
- High School
- TAFE
- Local Prison
- Community Members
- Local Nurseries
- Local Tree Lopper

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Kidsafe WA Resources

WA CHILDHOOD INJURY SURVEILLANCE RESEARCH REPORT: PLAYGROUND INJURIES

Prepared with the support of Princess Margaret Hospital Emergency Department

Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

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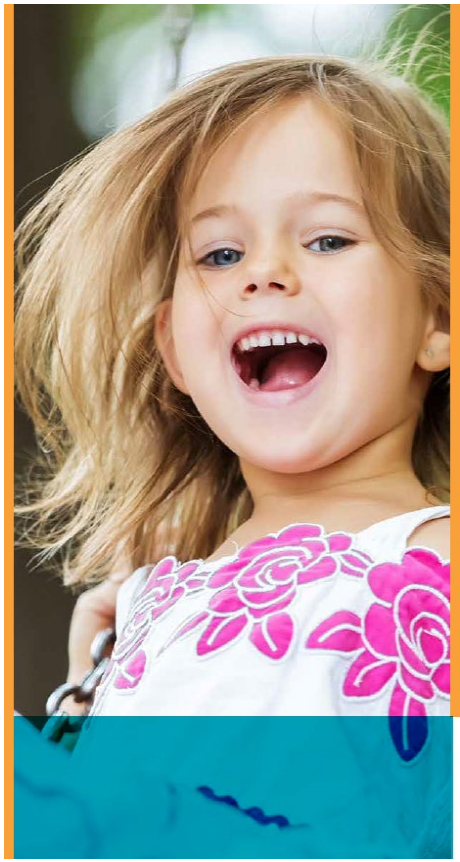
Playground Research Report:

A Comparison of the Safety Risks and Health Benefits between Manufactured Playgrounds and Nature Playgrounds within a School Environment

Supported by:



Kidsafe WA

A GUIDE TO PLAYGROUND STANDARDS

PARTNER

Play@Kidsafe

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Fact Sheets

Fact Sheet

LOOSE PARTS

What are Loose Parts?

Loose parts' are items and materials that children can, move, adapt, control, change and manipulate within their play. They provide a high level of creativity and choice, as there are endless possibilities for how they can be used.

The theory of Loose Parts was developed in 1971 by Simon Nicholson who said that in any environment, the degree of creativity and inventiveness was directly proportional to the number of variables in it.

Do you remember building cubbies with branches and anything else you could get your hands on as a child? Loose parts in a play space enhance the fixed play items already available and are one of the most valuable resources you can have.

Loose parts can be anything from branches, sticks, small rocks, pine cones, shells, tyres, ropes, pvc pipe, logs, craters, seed pods, stumps – the possibilities are endless. Most loose parts don't cost anything to obtain and therefore don't hold value to other people so can be left out in the playspace overnight.

For more information (08) 6244 4880
Child Safety Information Line 1800 802 244
Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26

Partner: Government of Western Australia Department of Health
www.kidsafewa.com.au

Fact Sheet

TIMBER TREATMENTS

The use of CCA (Copper Chromium Arsenate) treatment for some types of timber products is restricted in Australia. Please consider the following information when choosing timber for construction.

What is CCA?

Timber is a common material used when constructing play spaces. The life of timber is significantly increased when treated with a preservative, from a few years to 25 years or more. Preserving treatments protect the timber from decay, fungi, wood boring insects and termites. Australia's most widely used wood preservative to date has been CCA (Copper Chromium Arsenate). CCA uses copper to control fungi, arsenic compounds to control termites and chromium to fix the copper and arsenic compounds in the wood.
In Australia the use of CCA and other preservatives are approved and regulated by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Treatment specifications are set by Australian Standards.

Why has it been banned?

The APVMA completed a review of CCA treated timber and announced in April 2005 that CCA treated timber shall no longer be used for new construction of playground equipment, domestic and patio decking, handrails, garden and park furniture, picnic tables and exterior seating. The major concern has been the potential for leaching out of arsenic compounds from the treated timber.

While the APVMA did not find evidence to conclude that CCA treated timber posed unacceptable risks to the community, neither could they find sufficient quality scientific evidence supporting its safety in certain situations, particularly those where direct and frequent contact with children was likely.

AS4685:2014 states that timber treated with CCA or Creosote shall not be used.

When is it appropriate to use CCA treated timber?

For typical outdoor situations such as fencing, deck supports and substructure, landscaping sleepers and logs, and other cases where minimal direct human contact is expected, CCA treated timber products are appropriate and readily available.
However, where frequent direct human contact is expected or the end user prefers a non-arsenic product, timber treated with alternative preservation technologies are available.

Partner: Government of Western Australia Department of Health
www.kidsafewa.com.au

Fact Sheet

FENCING PLAYSPACES

Public Playspaces

A fence around the outdoor playspace may assist with the containment of children, preventing them running out into a hazard such as a busy road, and keeping animals and undesired traffic out.

While it is not required that a playground has a fence, the playgrounds that do have fences should follow guidelines and meet design requirements for playground safety and consider local government codes.

The need for fencing in public playspaces is determined by conducting a risk assessment to AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009. Some factors to consider:

Is the playspace adjacent to a busy road?
Is the playspace near a water way?
Is a cycle way included in the playspace?
Is a dog park located near the playspace?
Is the design of the playspace for younger children?
Are full or partial barriers required?
Is there an opportunity to design garden beds/hedges as barriers?

Where it has been assessed that a fence is preferred around a public playspace, the fence is usually installed around the boundary of the playspace. This enables the children to use the playground equipment and the surrounding open space without fear of injury by misadventure outside the perimeter of the designated play area.

Designers should assess the most appropriate form of protection. A boundary can make a playground appear tidier and more defined, though this of course may not necessarily be a fence. Possible measures include simple one or two rail fences, bollards, landscape planting, garden beds, hedges, mounding, stone/brick wall or combinations of these.

It is important to consider that the selected fence type does not introduce an additional hazard. Kidsafe WA recommends the fence meets (as a minimum requirement) AS 2423:2002 Coated steel wire fencing products for terrestrial, aquatic and general use or AS 1926.1-2007/Amdt 1:2008 Swimming pool safety - Safety barriers for swimming pools.

Many fence contractors will be familiar with these standards. It is important to note that playground fencing is NOT the same as swimming pool fencing and may have a different opening threshold between vertical or horizontal members. Most fences are not designed to withstand the force of an automobile gone astray.

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Child Safety Information Line 1800 802 244
Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26

Partner: Government of Western Australia Department of Health
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The mud will wash off but the memories will last a lifetime.

Unknown

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Play @ Kidsafe

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Tracy – 0428 875503 or tracy@kidsafewa.com.au

Presentations, workshops, training, consultations, playground safety audits

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