

APPROPRIATE RISK-TAKING AND CLIMBING

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS

- **Element 2.2.2:** Physical activity is promoted through planned and spontaneous experiences and is appropriate for each child.
- **Element 2.3.2:** Children are adequately supervised at all times.
- **Element 2.3.2:** Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.
- **Element 3.2:** The environment is inclusive, promotes competence, independent exploration and learning through play.
- **Education and Care Services National Regulations: 168 (2) (h)**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures that will be implemented by the centre for the safe use of the climbing equipment for all age groups. The outlined procedures will effectively manage any identified risks associated with each respective piece of climbing equipment and provide procedures to ensure safe risk taking. This equipment comprises:

- slide
- UFO
- balance beams
- gymnasium.

This policy ensures that the safety and wellbeing of children is always maintained. Preventing serious injury is a key consideration in the use of the climbing equipment at Froebel. Along with this important consideration is the need for children to explore and learn through play.

There is a growing body of research that highlights the benefits for all children when play environments provide risk and challenge. There is also corresponding evidence of negative outcomes when children are not given such opportunities and striving for 'risk-free' playgrounds can diminish learning and development opportunities.

Risk taking provides opportunities for children to explore, be adventurous and to test their own capacities in the early childhood environment. Appropriate risk taking satisfies a child's innate need for risk therefore helping the child to learn about their own sense of being- their strengths, abilities, achievements, and limitations, and about how to access risk: problem solve, communicate, collaborate, and get along positively with others. It is the policy FROEBEL Carlton to encourage appropriate risk-taking opportunities through play. The fixed climbing equipment at the centre provide key elements that support the children to learn in this way in their early childhood environment.

An important aspect of this policy is the consideration that children will never be pressured into taking an appropriate risk if they do not want to.

The educators will use their knowledge and understanding of each child to appropriately respond to their age, skills and interests with regards to the climbing equipment.

PROCEDURES

Staff and Educators will:

- Conduct a risk assessment for each item of equipment used for the purpose of age-appropriate risk-taking
 - Slide
 - UFO
 - Balance beams
 - Gymnasium
- Inspect the climbing equipment daily using a designated 'safety checklist'. Any areas highlighted for maintenance will be prioritised for repair.
- Ensure that children are appropriately supervised when using all pieces of equipment. This means being aware of where they stand or are positioned in relation to the
 - Slide
 - UFO
 - Balance beams
 - Gymnasium.
- Communicate effectively with each other to ensure that at least one educator is present at each piece of equipment.
- Develop a set of 'expectations' with the children to guide the children in safe ways to use the equipment.
- Ensure that expectations communicated include guidelines about: the appropriate footwear and clothing for climbing, the number of children that can engage on each piece of equipment, and the importance of keeping the areas around the equipment free of toys and other play equipment.
- Create signage with the children that displays these guidelines and highlights the importance of safety to new or casual staff.
- Take every reasonable precaution to protect the children who are in the care of the service from harm and from any possible hazard likely to cause injury.

REFERENCES

- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- National Quality Standard
- Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia
- Community Child Care Co-operative – <http://cccnsw.org.au>
- [KidsafeVIC](#)
- *Risk-taking in Outdoor Play: Possibilities and Challenges*. Helen Little: Institute of Early Childhood Macquarie University

ASSOCIATED POLICIES

- Supervision
- Accident Prevention
- Safety Check and Maintenance of Buildings and Equipment
- Accidents and Incidents

REVIEW

Last review: 25.03.2024

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