the culture of risk in play

by
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Calgary Stampede?

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- Chairman Children's Play Policy Forum
- Chairman of Sutcliffe Play Ltd

Risk thread through Conference

"Advocacy and public policy: making the case for risky play, and challenging the blame culture"

Led by Tim Gill

How we did it in the UK Lessons for success

Managing Risk in Play

Sutcliffe Play

"Children need and want to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, play provision aims to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury."

2003 Play Safety Forum launch Managing risk in play: A position statement

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Launched at Bruges Child in the City Conference

Resulting in launch of

European Play Safety Forum

From Portugal to Norway

and Scotland to Italy



Why was the Position statement so powerful, relevant and accepted?

Suiciffe Play

- 1. Strength of Play Safety Forum
 - Consensual
 - Breadth of representation
- 2. HSE Research supporting the statement
 - David Ball research into efficacy of standards for HSE
- 3. Absolutely of its time
 - Many from the play sector globally recognised the problem and saw this as a way of tackling it
 - Published immediately after the European Standard

Strength of Play Safety Forum

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Consensual

- No decision has been taken on the basis of a vote
- Different forms of straw pole useful as guide

Breadth of representation

• All sectors represented:

National: The four UK Nations

Public: Health &Safety Executive

Voluntary: Fields in Trust, Learning through Landscapes etc.

Private: Association of Play Industries, Inspectors, etc.

Advocacy and research

- 1989 King and Ball: A holistic approach to accident and injury prevention in children's playgrounds
- 2003 David Ball: research into efficacy of standards for HSE
- 2007 Tim Gill: No Fear
- 2015 Mariana Brussoni et all: systematic literature review on 'risky play'

Absolutely of its time



- By 1999 many from the play sector globally had recognised the problem of increasing legislation creating cotton wool places for children to play
- Debate over safety, risk and injury developed during period of writing the CEN European Standard
- Published immediately after that standard, Managing Risk in Play crytallised views and encouraged debate.









MARKET SHOW

CHILDREN'S PLAY AND LESSURE - PROMOTING A BALANCED APPROACH

- 1. Meath and addity feet and regulations are sensitively presented as a masser why relatery stay, and discusse entities colorisately all yathlibrium of sensitive projects stated for excellent sequences of the result of the resultance of the re
- The purpose of this statement is to give clear messages which tookis depomissionistancings. In this statement, HSE makes clear that, as a regulation it recognises the to reflar at allowing chickens and proving people of all ages and a billion to have challenging play apprehilder.
- 2 HOE hits supports the provision of play for all abstraces in a vacarity of environments. HOE understands and accepts that this means stratem visit after the designate to pay environments which, which well-rain apply, duty a designer of rail and acceptances potential danger.
- 4. HSE verts to make ourse that mistaken health and salety concerns do not onests whole piles are bornested that both drawings and as prevent children from expanding their learning and atheting their abotions.
- 6. This altahenest provides all those with a stake an encouraging children to diley with a client-parture of ASEs para-parture or those tracum. HEE works be amounting a force on the servicide can proportionate control of seat index and not on unnecessary proportional. HEE provides are set on a unnecessary proportional. HEEE prices provides all six case childs arriving from stricks breaches of the fare control or investigation as traggletion.

Recognising the benefits of play

Fay massage: Play is great for children's woll-being and development. When planning and prevailing play opportunities, the goal is not to eliminate rule, but it is every up the children's benefit. As children's execution and observed in order work and or order work.

- 6. HSC Maily encognises that play brough the viers to the bit orbitions. It previous for an explicitly and under some control orbital play of the deliber, helps there to learn and develop, and explanes there in the resides of the violet in editor. Buy will be, plant is a world set their the limit deliber and other limits of the violet in editor. Buy will be a plant is a world set their their deliber and other size.
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PSF achievements

- Position statement (launched at CinC Bruges in 2002)
- Managing risk implementation guide (2008)
- Risk –Benefit Assessment (2012)
- High level statement from HSE (2012)

Risk Benefit Assessment

Sutcliffe Play

Runs through all the work of the Forum

Moves away from concept of risk as always negative

Recognises the benefit of risk in all recreational and creative activities

Allows risk to be balanced against benefits

Professional Reputation

Gutcliffe Play

If children are to be given the opportunity to manage risk that they need and deserve, then the first risk that has to be taken is the risk to reputation.

In the UK this is perhaps the biggest barrier to rewarding and exciting playgrounds.

Risk Benefit Assessment is the method by which reputation can be protected

Need for International Play safety Network (IPSN)

The need for international consensus raised at Ghent CitC Conference

The PSF invites conference delegates to join it in this debate.

49 members from 14 countries, from USA to Japan via Europe, Russia and Australia

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Suggestions for making successful change

- Sutcliffe Play
- 1 Bring together a broad spectrum of organisations from Manufacturers, Health and Safety organisations, and inspectors to playworkers, public providers and academics.
- 2 Work consensually, no votes other than straw polls.
- 3 Consensus between Technical, Practical and Intellectual
- 4 Be clear about what you want to achieve and agree this across your group.
- 5 Make sure you include your own standards organisation and maintain dialogue with them

Thank You

Any Questions?

