

Common Sense, Common Safety

Lord Young Review 2010 - Government accepted all recommendations

Report highlights the importance of children being able to experience risk. Children were seen as missing out on valuable opportunities.

This disproportionate approach (to health and safety) has had a negative impact on education and has decreased the number of opportunities available to children to experience risk in a controlled environment.

(Common Sense, Common Safety 2010)



Department of Education – H&S Advice to schools June 2013

Children should be able to experience a wide range of activities.

Health and safety measures should help them to do this safely, not stop them.

It is important that children learn to understand and manage the risks that are a normal part of life.

Common sense should be used in assessing and managing the risks of any activity.

Health and safety procedures should always be proportionate to the risks of an activity.

Teachers should be confident that they know best how to look after pupils and keep them safe. (Pdf available)

See also: HSE Report July 2012 Children's Play



[Play Safety Forum](#)

The Health and Safety Executive's key message is:

Play is great for children's well-being and development. When planning and providing play opportunities, the goal is not to eliminate risk, but to weigh up the risks and benefits. No child will learn about risk if they are wrapped in cotton wool.

(HSE 2012)

Statement on risk

(HSE) 2005:

Sensible health and safety is about managing risks, not eliminating them all. HSE is not in the business of stamping out simple pleasures wherever they appear and at whatever cost. We recognise the benefits to children's development of play, which necessarily involves some risk, and this shouldn't be sacrificed in the pursuit of the unachievable goal of absolute safety.

OFSTED: Ms Spielman:



"over-cautious culture has developed in our schools that is holding back children and limiting their experiences...this deprives children of rewarding experiences, of the opportunity to develop resilience and grit and which makes it hard for them to cope with normal everyday risk".

"some level of risk is an essential part of childhood. Without it, we stifle children's natural inquisitiveness and their opportunities to learn .. and deny them those opportunities to build that muscular strength and dexterity."