

No Fear: Growing up in a risk averse society



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School ban on kiss chase and tag

Traditional playground games like kiss chase and tag have been banned primary school because said playtime was becoming too rough.

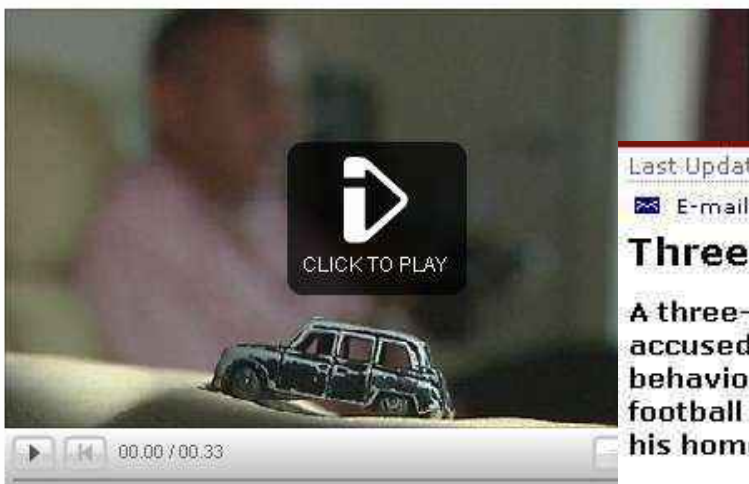


Page last updated at 15:37 GMT, Thursday, 8 July 2010 16:37 UK

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Head teacher at St John Primary, near Lincoln, St Tuck, said children had been copying the violent elements

School bans parents from sports days in CRB check fear



The man said his son had been left very disappointed
A school in Leicestershire has banned parents from attending its sports days - as it cannot guarantee they have undergone police checks.

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- ▶ De Lisle Catholic Science College
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Last Updated: Friday, 28 April 2006, 13:13 GMT 14:13 UK

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Three-year-old boy 'anti-social'

A three-year-old has been accused of anti-social behaviour for playing football with friends outside his home.

Michelle Mann, 24, of Willow Park, Wythenshawe, Manchester, was told "playing ball games close to someone else's home" breached the tenancy.

Willow Park Housing Trust landlords said in a letter that she could be evicted, if her son Ben continued.

The trust said it takes all complaints seriously and is



Ben Mann was playing football outside with two other boys





How children lost the right to roam in four generations

By DAVID DERBYSHIRE - [More by this author »](#)

Last updated at 01:03am on 15th June 2007

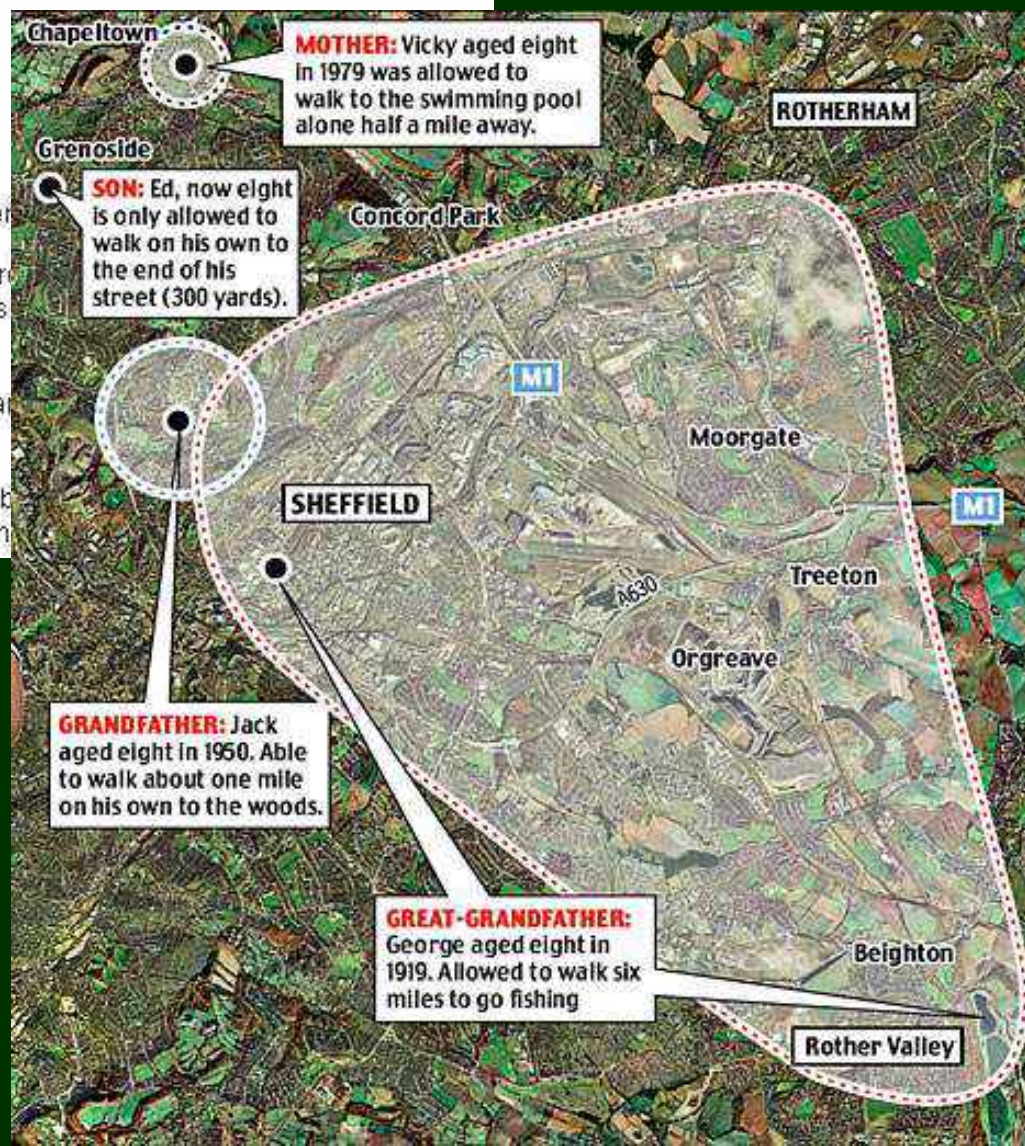
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When George Thomas was eight he walked ever

It was 1926 and his parents were unable to afford of a bike and he regularly walked six miles to his supervision.

Fast forward to 2007 and Mr Thomas's eight-year none of that freedom.

He is driven the few minutes to school, is taken b and can roam no more than 300 yards from home



Anxious parents?

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Boris backs couple threatened by social services for letting their children cycle to school

By DAVID WILKES

Last updated at 5:27 PM on 17th August 2010

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Boris Johnson today slammed 'barmy' health and safety rules after a London couple were threatened with being referred to social services for letting their children cycle to school.

Oliver and Gillian Schonrock let their son and daughter, five and eight respectively, make the one-mile trip from their home on their own.

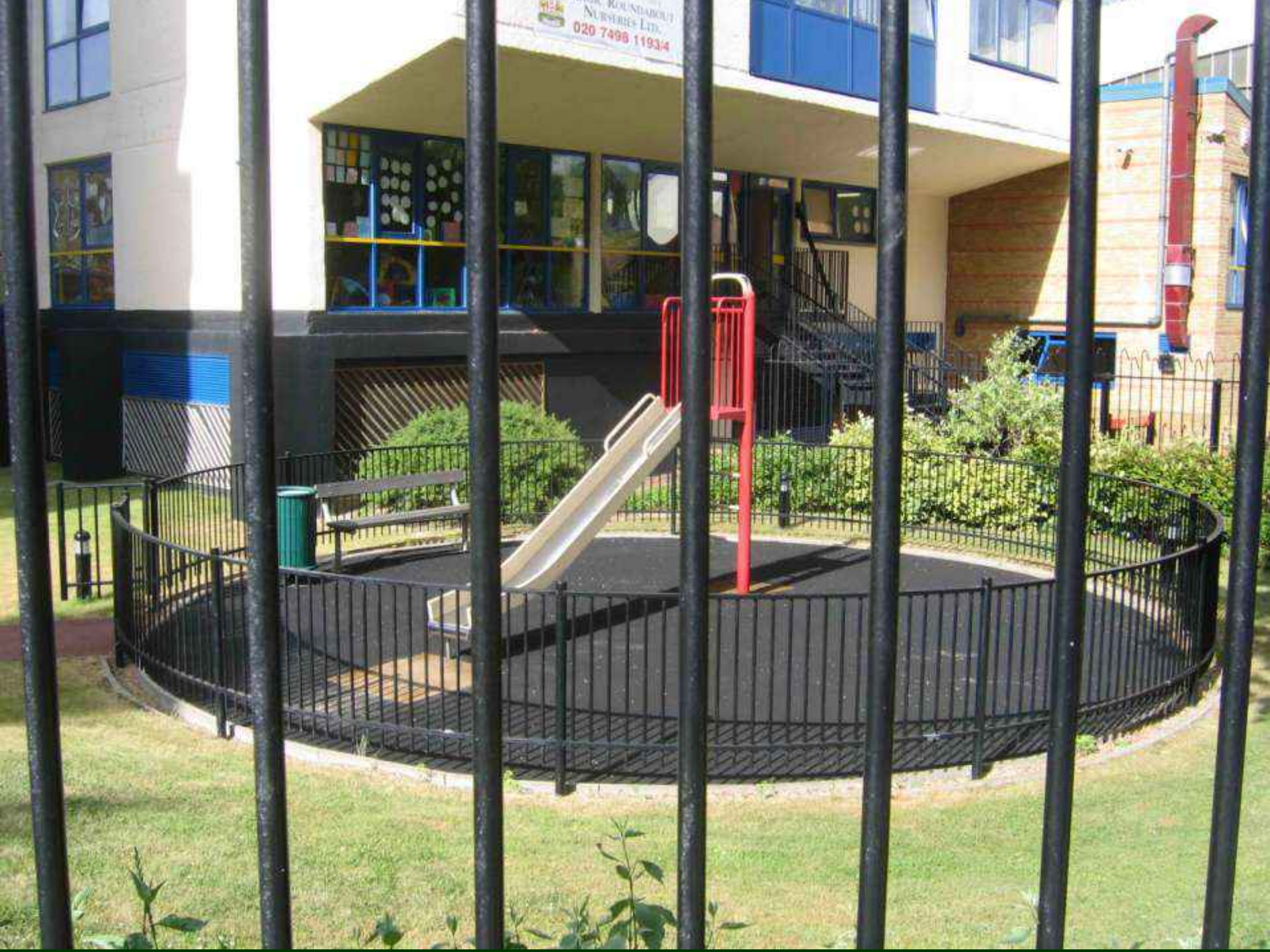
They say it helps to teach the youngsters independence, self-confidence and responsibility.

But other parents and teachers at £12,000-a-year Aileyn's Junior School in Dulwich, south east London, are said to think the practice is irresponsible and dangerous.

Headteacher Mark O'Donnell has met with Mr and Mrs Schonrock and told them the school is under an obligation to consider the children's safety and has a legal responsibility to notify the council if they fear it is being put at risk.











Playground safety

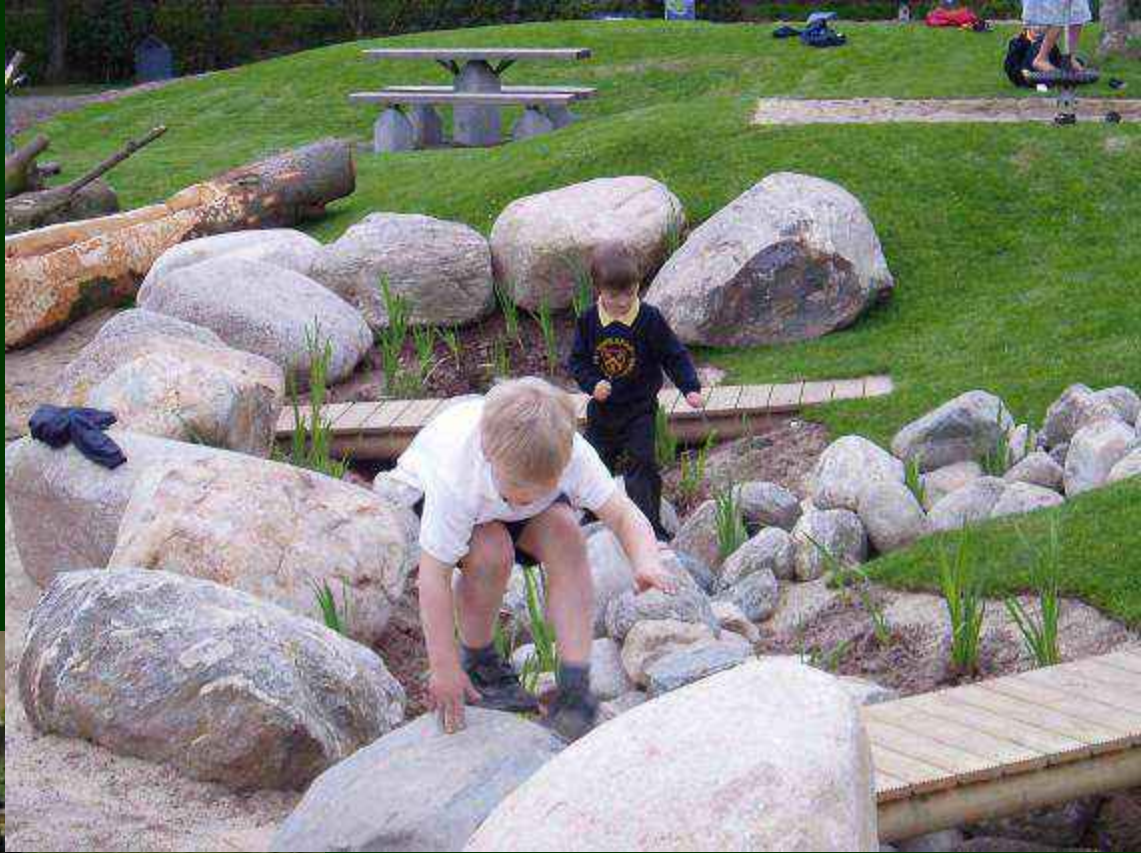
- How big is the problem?
- Cost?
- Impact on injuries?
- Side effects?
- Opportunity costs?











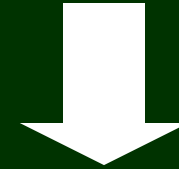




Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation guide

David Ball, Tim Gill and Bernard Spiegel

Risk assessment



Risk-benefit assessment

Battle Hill Primary School



Confidence



to undertake risks and challenges comes through learning how to do things safely and through pushing at boundaries

Ivy Road

Death in the woods





“The forest”



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Risk It!

01/11/2009

Risk It!

1 Nov 2009

"[Play in natural environments] fulfils basic childhood needs of freedom, adventure and risk-taking" (Greenman, 1999)

Children in the Mindstretchers Nature Kindergartens in Perthshire, Scotland are skilled at self risk assessing. We all have different attitudes to risk and the adults in the Kindergartens take their lead from the children who have done their own risk assessments. What is an acceptable risk to one adult or child might not be acceptable to another. One practitioner might be very happy to allow children to jump 2 metres off a tree trunk while another might become anxious and prevent children from jumping a metre!

In the Nature Kindergartens we remove hazards that children do not see as we would remove deadwood from the tree canopy but we do not remove challenges or risks that children do see and then choose to undertake. Children can choose to climb up a tree and how far they feel comfortable climbing. If we remove all challenges children lose the ability to self risk assess. Our philosophy is to be risk aware and not risk averse and to employ a sense of perspective when assessing risks as risk - whether it is real or perceived is everywhere! Children in the centre are aware of the stinging nettles, their dangers, what they can be used for and the remedy for getting stung as the following conversation demonstrates:

- "Nettles, do you know what's dangerous about nettles?" Jago 4
- "They sting you you know," Caitlin 4
- "You can make soup with nettles. You need to put a glove on to pick them," Donald 4
- "Rub ourselves with a dock leaf," Caitlin 4



We believe that a benefit-risk assessment... needs to be a **value-based exercise** which is dependent on the practitioner's knowledge about children's capacities, their resilience and their ability to make judgments. **They also need to understand the benefits of at least some accidents** and that some things can only be learnt through experience.

Bayonne Nursery

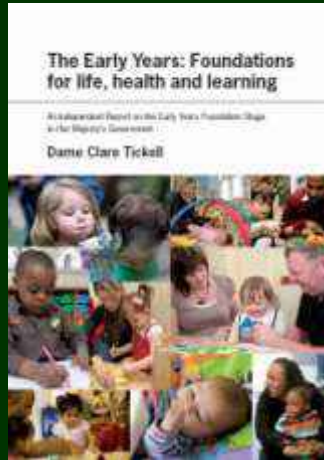


Oct 2010



[In play provision]
we should shift from
a system of risk
assessment to a
system of risk—
benefit assessment,
where potential
positive impacts are
weighed against
potential risk.

30 Mar 2011



Being willing to have a go refers to the role of play in children finding an interest, initiating activities, seeking challenge, having a 'can do' orientation, **being willing to take a risk in new experiences**, and developing the view of failures as learning opportunities.



Learning to keep safe is an important element in the face of limitations imposed by a risk-averse society.



Practitioners should not have to undertake written risk assessments when they take children out.

www.rethinkingchildhood.com

