No Fear:
Growing up in a risk averse society
School bans parents from sports days in CRB check fear

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

A school in Leicestershire has banned parents from its sports day as it cannot guarantee they have undergone police checks.

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 considering its options.
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

Comments (23)

When George Thomas was eight he walked everywhere.

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

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

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

**MOTHER:** Vicky aged eight in 1979 was allowed to walk to the swimming pool alone half a mile away.

**SON:** Ed, now eight is only allowed to walk on his own to the end of his street (300 yards).

**GRANDFATHER:** Jack aged eight in 1950. Able to walk about one mile on his own to the woods.

**GREAT-GRANDFATHER:** George aged eight in 1919. Allowed to walk six miles to go fishing.
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

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 Alleyn’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?
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”
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.
[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.
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.
Practitioners should not have to undertake written risk assessments when they take children out. Learning to keep safe is an important element in the face of limitations imposed by a risk-averse society.