



Risk Handout

Tim Gill's 4 roles of risk:

- Hardwiring
- Health and Holistic Wellbeing
- Building and maintaining resilience
- To help children manage risks

Other considerations:

- The risk of not taking risks in childhood
- To support children to move between telic (serious, planned, low arousal) and paratelic (freely chosen, spontaneous, playful) states

What are the implications of depriving children of the opportunities to take risks?

Robin Sutcliffe: Free Play Network

How might risk deprivation impact on their holistic development?

You cannot be creative without taking a risk.

You cannot discover your limits without taking a risk.

You cannot declare a relationship without taking a risk.

You cannot be passionate about anything without taking a risk.

You cannot lead without taking a risk.

Physical risk is only a small part of the issue.

The need for risk crosses all boundaries (much like play itself).

It is not gender specific, though the types of risk favoured may be.

It has nothing to do with ability or disability. Indeed it is probably more important the less able bodied a person is.

Perhaps most importantly the fulfilment of the individual is dependant on their capacity to take risks, which makes the capacity to manage and enjoy risk taking a vital building block of cohesive and vibrant communities.

Making Risky Play work at your Forest School

- Take it seriously. It's important that children take risks AND people are often very frightened of these risks
- Use BRAs; Emergency Plan; number Risk Assessments and Daily Site Checks to ensure that you are comfortable with all the activities and circumstances
- Keep an accident book
- Work within your and your setting's policies and procedures

Gill, T., (2008) *No Fear: Growing Up in a Risk Averse Society* London: Calouste Gulbenkian Play England: <http://www.playengland.org.uk/>

<http://www.playwales.org.uk/login/uploaded/documents/INFORMATION%20SHEETS/playworkers%20guide%20to%20risk.pdf>