

### Risk Benefit Assessment for Playing in the dark

<b>Benefit of Experience:</b>					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children will regularly play in the dark and by doing so at Sycamore Adventure, they can learn how to do so safely in a supervised setting</li> <li>2. Play in the dark will encourage children to encounter calculated risks and learn to mitigate against these risks independently whilst observed and supported by the play staff team.</li> <li>3. Play in the dark encourages specific play types and games, e.g. Hide and seek, exploratory play, deep play.</li> <li>4. By enabling outdoor play to continue during dark nights, play workers will continue to provide Self Directed Play, opportunity to follow own interests and develop in an exciting and stimulating environment</li> <li>5. By enabling outdoor play to continue during dark nights, children will encounter physical activity at Sycamore Adventure</li> <li>6. Outdoor play in the dark will enhance communication skills, negotiation skills and teamwork.</li> <li>7. For some children, accessing the adventure playground in the dark will be a new, exciting and rewarding experience.</li> <li>8. Staff ensure landscape is inclusive and all can join in ensuring that all are able to make a positive contribution.</li> <li>9. Outdoor play will continue to provide social opportunities.</li> </ol>					
<b>Steps</b>	<b>Hazard / Risk</b>	<b>Risk Rating (Likely hood x Severity)</b>	<b>Action to Control Risk</b>	<b>Revised Risk Rating</b>	<b>Responsible person</b>
Ensure that the play space is safe for children to access prior to session taking place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip hazards / slippy surface enabling child to fall.</li> <li>• Sharp objects on the floor</li> <li>• Unsafe equipment</li> <li>• Child injures themselves without staff being aware</li> <li>• Allegations being made</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the play area is free of trip hazards and has been ground checked prior to all sessions commencing.</li> <li>• Daily litter picks and safety checks to be conducted on entire site to ensure it is safe for use.</li> <li>• Equipment safety check conducted once each week.</li> <li>• Monthly Greencare inspection visits held.</li> <li>• Annual independent playground inspection conducted.</li> <li>• Appropriate supervision in place, two staff</li> </ul>	Low	Play Worker

			<p>indoors and two staff outdoors at all times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full centre policies and procedures followed by all play staff</li> <li>• Staff have Walkie talkies to communicate from a distance</li> <li>• Playwork qualified staff present at every session</li> <li>• Safety talks held to discuss sessions prior to commencing – exciting indoor activities planned to encourage children to play inside.</li> <li>• First aid kit and first aiders present at every session.</li> <li>• Public Liability Insurance in place.</li> <li>• Site Risk assessment and activity risk assessments to be adhered to at all times.</li> </ul>		
Children arrive at the adventure playground for self directed play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor play provides areas with low light... risk of tripping, accidents and injury</li> <li>• Poor visibility of children by play workers, risk of accidents and injury not being observed.</li> <li>• Loosing a child due to poor observation conditions.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents made aware of adventure playground play in the dark policy and relevance to the playwork principles.</li> <li>• Where parents are present at play sessions, they are reminded that supervision of their child is essential.</li> <li>• All outdoor building lights timed to come on prior to play sessions taking place aiding journey from the building into the play space.</li> <li>• New outdoor lighting installed to illuminate the play space.</li> <li>• Lanterns to be provided in areas where likelihood of trips / injury are most prominent. An audit has been carried out</li> </ul>	Low	Play Workers Children Parents

			<p>to highlight key areas where additional lighting is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children reminded of risks of playing outdoors prior to entering the playground. They will be reminded to take caution, avoid running and ask for support if necessary.</li> <li>• Staff positioned in working zones to ensure that the play space is observed at all times and to conduct dynamic risk assessments of children playing within their working zone.</li> <li>• Staff to conduct regular checks on hidden areas to ensure child safety (Tipi, boat, tower, Dragon, tree houses).</li> <li>• Walkie Talkies used by staff to communicate child whereabouts and report any accidents.</li> <li>• The playground is surrounded by climb proof fencing making children absconding from the centre near impossible. All gates to remain locked, with staff having keys to gates for emergency use only.</li> </ul>		
Event of an emergency taking place during dark nights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor visibility restricting escape from the building</li> <li>• Poor visibility at fire evacuation point</li> <li>• Difficulties seeing the register / documentation in emergency</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire evacuation points are illuminated by outdoor lighting.</li> <li>• Registers taken daily and kept safe by designated member of staff who will access torches in event of emergency.</li> <li>• Spare lanterns available if required.</li> </ul>	Low	Play Workers

	<p>situations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulties accessing locks in situations where escape from the site is required.</li> </ul>				
<p>Monitor play in the dark to improve safety precautions for children's play.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associated accidents going unrecognised</li> <li>• Lack of learning from incidents</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accident reports completed after each incident / accident</li> <li>• Daily reflection sessions held with staff after play sessions to mitigate against any associated risks.</li> <li>• Accidents reviewed in staff meetings / steering group meetings creating learning points and areas for improvement.</li> <li>• Fire evacuation drills to be held during dark nights.</li> <li>• Long term aim is to get outdoor lighting.</li> </ul>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Playworkers</p>

SIGNED..... RISK ASSESSOR  
 SIGNED ..... PLAY RANGER

DATE ..... DATE TO BE REVIEWED .....  
 DATE ..... DATE TO BE REVIEWED.....