

4. RISKY PLAY POLICY

Everyone Out believes that tamariki need the opportunity to take risks and set their own challenges in order to become confident, capable adults. Moreover, Everyone Out believes that experimenting with an element of risk, within a safe and nurturing environment, offers ngā tamariki a wealth of opportunity to explore and expand upon each of the NZ Curriculum's 5 Key Competencies.

There are different types of risky play. Ellen Sandsetter's research [1] originally identified six elements of risky play which expanded to eight in 2019. They are: heights, speed, elements (earth, water, air and fire), tools, rough and tumble, getting lost/hiding, vicarious and play with impact.

Kaiako at Everyone Out have high expectations of, and trust in, ngā tamariki and their abilities as capable, autonomous learners. As such, all programmes offer tamariki a nurturing learning environment by implementing few, but meaningful, rules; they are explained and shared with ngā tamariki in order to ensure their full comprehension and buy-in. In doing so Everyone Out provides clear boundaries and expectations within which ngā tamariki feel secure to challenge themselves, building their resilience levels by extending upon their skills and/or supporting others in doing so. Kaiako understand that the support required by individual tamariki will vary greatly in accordance with both their cognitive and physical developmental stages.

PROCEDURE:

- Everyone Out has undertaken extensive risk assessment of all venues, facilities and surroundings, and the activities and resources it offers ngā tamariki.
- Everyone Out will complete a specific Risk Assessment Management Strategy (RAMS) Form for any excursion, or activity which poses a particular/increased safety risk.
 - Kaiako will be required to review and understand these RAMS forms, as well as the general hazards of the programme
 - RAMS forms will be reviewed annually to ensure their accuracy
- Resources will be inspected regularly, to ensure they are still fit for purpose.
- Kaiako will support ngā tamariki to lead their own learning, at their own pace, and via their own means and methods.
- Kaiako will provide tamariki with the necessary time and space to assess and manage their own risks.
- Kaiako will support tamariki in order to encourage them, whilst appropriately ensuring the safety of the activity.
- No tamaiti will be forced to participate in any activity if they are not willing or comfortable to do so.
- No tamaiti will be put in a position/physically moved into a position (unless it is required for their immediate safety); instead they will be given verbal encouragement or directives if needed as a means of support.

- This practice ensures tamariki are able to safely maneuver their bodies independently into and out of any given situation/position, thereby minimising the likelihood of being or feeling stuck or trapped.

4.1. FIRE LEARNING

Tamariki will have the opportunity to engage in fire learning. In order to do so safely and appropriately the following practices will be ensured:

- Shoes will be worn at all times during fire learning of any kind
- When using the fire pit a kaiako will be in attendance at all times
- When using the fire pit kaiako will operate in accordance with the guidelines and requirements of the National Fire Service
 - The fire communication will be notified of any intention to light the fire pit before doing so
 - A means of dousing the fire will be on hand at all times while it is lit
- Unless lighting, dowsing or cooking on the fire pit tamariki will remain outside the marked fire circle
 - Tamariki will enter the fire circle for the above purposes one at a time
- If they are wanting to use fire steels, tamariki must obtain the required resources from a kaiako.
 - Tamariki must ensure they have a bowl of water on hand to douse their fires or treat any burns
 - That kaiako must remain within sight of ngā tamariki whilst they are using these resources, and ensure they are being used appropriately and safely
 - Kaiako must ensure the resources are safely packed away when the activity is complete
- Unless securely packed away, no matches or fire lighting resources will be left unattended at any time

4.2. USE OF TOOLS

Tamariki will have the opportunity to independently explore the use of a range of tools. In order to do so safely and appropriately the following practices will be ensured:

- Tools will be well maintained and kept in good working order
- Tools will be kept in their designated space when not in use
- Tamariki will wear gloves when using the saws or drills
- Tools will be used for their intended purpose only
- Tamariki will be supported to use tools in an appropriate space, ensuring the safety of themselves and those around them
- Tools will not be taken into the bush areas, unless for a specific project and permission has been granted by a kaiako
- Tools must be returned to the tool area when not in use

[1] Kleppe, R., Melhuish, E. & Sandseter, E.B. (2017). Identifying and characterizing risky play in the age one-to-three years. *European Early Childhood Education Research Journal* 25 volume 3, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1350293X.2017.1308163>