

# Make-Do Play risk assessment

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March 2022. Updated January 2023  
To be read alongside the health and safety policy.

## Context

We believe risky play is important for children to develop and learn. As playworkers, we believe children of all ages should be given the chance to engage in risky play. 'Risky' doesn't mean 'dangerous', and if we let children explore independently then they are very adept at assessing their own risk and learning how to keep themselves safe. A few bumps and grazes are all part of childhood! Some of our activities do contain elements of risk, such as woodwork, campfires, rope ladders and building small climbing structures with loose parts. Both Directors of Make-Do Play have worked in adventure playgrounds and are experienced in supervising these kinds of play.

| Risk   | Details  | Mitigation  |
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| <b>Tools-</b> Children are cut or injured by tools.            | Toolwork activities will be regularly available for children to build and create. This will include unstructured, child led activities where children can freely access tools. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Tools will be supervised by MDP staff or parents.</li><li>● Children and parents to be shown how to safely use tools.</li><li>● All tools/ tool activities to be appropriate for small children e.g. appropriate size/weight hammers.</li><li>● Tools to be checked regularly for wear and tear and removed if in need of repair.</li></ul>               |
| <b>Climbing-</b> children are hurt by falling whilst climbing. | Children are free to construct and climb on structures, loose parts and equipment. They may also climb garden walls and use self constructed swings.                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Parents to supervise their own children with their knowledge of their child's abilities.</li><li>● Climbing equipment (e.g. ladders, swings) to be checked regularly before, during and after sessions for wear and tear.</li><li>● Child constructed structures should be checked during the sessions and guidance given to children on how to</li></ul> |

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|   |  | make it safer so that where possible children can continue with their ideas.   |
| <b>Nearby road-</b><br>children run into the road and are hit by vehicles.  | Tollyrise Happiness Garden is gated but has a garden that leads onto the road.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parents are responsible for supervising their children.</li> <li>● We will monitor the gate to keep it closed and encourage our MDP to do the same.</li> <li>● Signage requesting the gate is closed should be put on the gate each week.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Bonfire and toasted foods-</b><br>children burn themselves on the fire whilst making it, adding to it or whilst eating the toasted food. | Bonfires will be led by staff during sessions.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fires to be led and supervised by MDP when two staff are on sessions.</li> <li>● Children to be shown how to interact safely with fire.</li> <li>● MDP fire pit to be used as it is safe and accessible height for children to use.</li> <li>● MDP should have a bucket of water near the fire in case of emergency.</li> <li>● MDP staff to ensure fire is thoroughly extinguished using water.</li> <li>● When toasting food on the fire, children and families should use long kebab sticks; be shown how to toast food safely and encouraged to check items have cooled before eating.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Church visitors without children-</b><br>unknown adults are able to speak  | The church is open to visitors during the day for drop in. Due to the nature of the church's work some visitors have additional support needs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If adults who do not have children want to use the garden we will liaise with the church staff to communicate when is the appropriate time for them to visit.</li> <li>● Signage put up on the gate to explain it's a children's session.</li> </ul>  |

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| and interact with children.   |  |  |
| <b>Dangerous rubbish-</b> children may cut or hurt themselves on broken glass or sharp rubbish. | Due to the garden development the soil is regularly turned over revealing glass and sharp lids. Rubbish is often dumped in the garden. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff to do a health and safety check of the garden before setting up each session. Checking, in particular, areas used for digging.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Covid-</b> families may become ill and covid-19 may be spread.                               | Covid-19 continues to spread at varying levels in the community causing varying levels of illness.                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sessions to remain outside as per delivery plan. This will naturally reduce the risk of transmission.</li> <li>● Team to wash and clean equipment regularly. If rates of Covid rise again then, additional washing and cleaning of the equipment should be introduced.</li> <li>● MDP to be signed up to receive public health updates from Islington.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Fire/ fire alarm-</b> a fire ay break out at the church or in the garden                     | The church and gardens may have a fire or fire alarm drills.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff to lead families and children out of the garden area and wait on the far side of Highcroft Road, following the lead of fire marshals at the church where possible or necessary.</li> </ul>  |

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|                                      |  | Both directors have significant experience in delivering risky play across a variety of settings. They have clear DBS's, and have attended safeguarding, health and safety and first aid training. Both directors will continue to attend relevant training and refreshers to maintain certification and will keep up date with legislative updates. |
| <b>General mitigation for risks.</b> |  |  |
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| <b>Staff training and DBS</b>        |  |  |
| Dom                                  | DBS number: /First aid date: / Safeguarding date: / Health and Safety date: / Adult safeguarding date: |  |
| Kerri                                | DBS number: <b>001522964630</b> Safeguarding date: 27/04/2022  |  |
| <b>Insurance</b>                     |  |  |
| Policy name and number:              | Markel   | Contact number:  |