

Frequently asked questions

Q. What other play ranger projects are there in the country and how can I get in touch with them?

A. There are lots of exiting play ranger projects all over the country. As part of this e-support group we are endeavouring to create a very simple database of existing play ranger groups in the UK which will be available for all members of the new play rangers group to see which groups may be local to them whilst at the same time help create a national picture of play ranger/open access provision in the UK.

If your organisation would like to join this database please email dreesjones@glos.ac.uk providing the following information.

I will add your organisation to the database in due course. Thank you

Name of organisation

Organisation email

Organisation website (if applicable)

Organisation Telephone

Please refer to Database of Play Ranger groups in the UK

Q. What types of risk assessments do play rangers need to do to cover themselves appropriately?

A. Play rangers are responsible for the children's play activities that they organise and therefore need good skills in risk assessment. Play rangers will need to be able to clearly identify the difference between risks and hazards in order to make assessments and complete formal risk assessment forms.

'A hazard is something that can cause an accident or harm to someone.'

'A risk is the chance of the hazard causing an accident or harm.'

Formal risk assessment forms should take into account details of the activity, potential hazards, possible risks and precautions that need to be considered.

Please refer to the Formal Risk Assessment template in the:

'General Information and Guidelines Section.'

Note: It is extremely important that play rangers should attend a risk assessment training course in their respective local authority

External hazards at each setting such as loose gravel, broken glass or dog faeces should be detailed on a separate assessment. Activity risk assessment forms should therefore be quick and easy to complete and regarded as guidance and support to staff rather than just more cumbersome paperwork.

Play rangers will also need to become proficient in making dynamic/informal risk assessments too. These assessments happen on site and are based on observations of what is happening at any one time. The open access and free play nature that play ranger sessions promotes means that play rangers will need to become good observers and may need to make frequent dynamic risk assessments depending on each situation that occurs.

Please refer to the Dynamic Risk Assessment template in the:

'General Information and Guidelines Section.'

Being sensitive to the playwork principles and intervention styles whilst at the same time making sure that children don't seriously hurt themselves is a difficult skill to develop but improves with confidence. Talking openly and involving children and young people about the potential risks of activities can not only help play rangers in facilitating risky play but will help

children to develop risk management skills for themselves so that they can manage their own safety.

Q. How do play ranger services tackle issues around insurance?

A. There are a number of insurance companies that will insure play ranger groups and activities. Astonscott.com stands out seeming to be a reliable and relatively cheap insurance company that make insuring open access play simpler than others.

Q. Where can I learn more about play rangers and how do I go about setting up a project?

Wansdyke Play Association have set up play ranger projects in Bath and North East Somerset over the last 5 years have recently produced the Play Ranger Guide: 'An essential resource for anyone who wants to set up open access play projects to provide opportunities for children and young people to be challenged, take risks and have fun outdoors.' Contents include:

The who, what, when, where and how of play rangers
Background
Putting a play ranger service in place
Essential groundwork
Making it a success
Dealing with the challenges
Monitoring and Evaluation
Appendices including model policies, working guidelines, job descriptions, forms, budgets and useful lists.

Please refer to:

Website: www.playrangers.net

Email: playrangers@ukonline.co.uk

Tel: 01761 420 660

Q. What play activities do play rangers provide?

A. Children are recognized as the experts in play, so maintaining a child-centered perspective in facilitating outdoor play provision is a primary role of play rangers. However they also aim to keep children safe whilst providing challenges and risk-taking opportunities through outdoor play. Play rangers bring equipment to the open access play space and through their presence encourage children to make more use of parks and open spaces in their communities all year round.

It is intended that as this support service develops new and innovative ideas will emerge which will be posted on here in due course. Watch this space.

Q. Are there any relevant conferences that would be useful for play rangers to attend?

A. Please refer to conferences and training events page for up to date information on events and courses coming up.