OPAL Risk Benefit Assessment

Activity: Slide

Benefits:

1. Physical Development

- Gross motor skills: Climbing steps and sliding help develop strength and coordination.
- Balance and body control: Children learn to position themselves safely when climbing and sliding.
- Spatial awareness: Helps children judge height, speed, and movement.

2. Cognitive Development

- Risk awareness: Children learn to assess speed, height and the safe use of equipment.
- Decision-making: Children decide when it is safe to take their turn and slide.
- Cause and effect: Children experience how movement and gravity affect speed.

3. Social and Emotional Skills

- Turn-taking: Encourages patience and understanding of rules.
- Communication: Children interact with peers while waiting and playing.
- Confidence: Successfully climbing and using the slide independently builds self-esteem.

4. Health and Wellbeing

- Encourages active outdoor play and physical exercise.
- Supports mental wellbeing through enjoyment and play.
- Promotes healthy lifestyles and reduces sedentary behaviour.

5. Independence

- Children gain confidence using equipment independently.
- Encourages self-management and awareness of personal abilities.

Activity ideas:

1. Slide and Count

• Children count aloud as they climb and slide.

• **Skills:** Number recognition and coordination.

2. Colour Challenge

• Children identify colours around the playground before taking their turn.

• **Skills:** Observation and communication.

3. Turn-Taking Game

• Encourage children to wait for their turn and cheer on others.

• **Skills:** Social interaction and patience.

4. Movement Challenge

• Children climb the steps carefully and safely, such as slow walking.

• **Skills:** Balance and coordination.

5. Story Adventure

• Pretend the slide is a waterfall, mountain, rocket ship or castle escape route.

• **Skills:** Creativity and imagination.

Risks:

1. Falls from the Slide

• **Hazards:** Falling from the top platform, steps or sides of the slide.

• **Risks:** Cuts, bruises, sprains, fractures or head injuries.

• **Control:** Ensure children use the slide appropriately, one at a time and feet first only. Staff are on duty to supervise.

2. Collisions

• **Hazards:** Children standing at the bottom of the slide, walking or running up the slide or sliding before the previous child has moved away.

• **Risks:** Bumps, bruises and minor injuries.

Risk Management

1. Control Measures

Before the Activity

• Inspect the slide for damage, loose parts or hazards.

• Check the surrounding surface is safe and free from obstacles.

• Ensure weather conditions are suitable.

• Explain slide safety rules to children.

During the Activity

• Provide active supervision.

• Ensure only one child uses the slide at a time.

• Encourage children to hold hand grips at the side when climbing. steps.

• **Control:** Teach children to move away promptly after sliding and wait until the slide is clear. **3. Slips and Trips** • **Hazards:** Wet steps, muddy surfaces or running around the slide. • **Risks:** Falls, cuts and bruises. • **Control:** Check surfaces before use and remind children to walk near the equipment. **4. Misuse of Equipment** • **Hazards:** Climbing up the slide, pushing, standing on the slide or overcrowding. • **Risks:** Falls and collisions. • **Control:** Reinforce playground rules and supervise closely. **5. Weather-Related Risks** • **Hazards:** Hot slide surfaces, rain, ice or strong winds. • **Risks:** Burns, slips or exposure-related injuries. • **Control:** Check equipment temperature and condition before use and avoid use during unsafe weather.	Ensure children only go down the slide feet first. • Children to wait until the bottom of the slide is clear and safe to travel on. • Monitor behaviour and intervene if unsafe play occurs. **After the Activity** • Check for any injuries or incidents. • Report and record any accidents or near misses. • Inspect the equipment and report any damage. **2. Emergency Preparedness** • Keep a first aid kit accessible. • Ensure first aid trained staff are available. • Follow emergency procedures if an injury occurs. **3. Review and Evaluation** • Review any incidents or near misses. • Evaluate the effectiveness of supervision and safety measures. • Update risk assessments where necessary. • Communicate to children ‘safe’ use of slide as needed.

Additional Information to Consider:

The slide is located at the top of the field on a grassed area, with a tree stump used to access the top of the slide. The tree stump should be inspected regularly to ensure it remains safe and stable, with checks for signs of deterioration such as wood rot, cracks, or loose sections. The slide should also be routinely checked to confirm it remains securely attached to the tree stump and is free from damage. The slide will

be available for children's use from March through to the end of October, with ongoing inspections carried out throughout this period to maintain safety.