



## Risky Play Practices

Sometimes when we engage in outdoor learning, we incorporate different elements of risky play and unstructured play and we want to ensure everyone is aware of the risks. Please read this document thoroughly. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at [mb.education@arocha.ca](mailto:mb.education@arocha.ca).

If you are interested in learning more about the benefits of Risky Play, please visit [outdoorplaycanada.com](http://outdoorplaycanada.com) or [meganzeni.com](http://meganzeni.com).

In our programs we support children in becoming confident, capable people who have a sound sense of their abilities and interests, and the ability to take age-appropriate responsibility for their own safety. Adult anxieties about risky play can lead adults to overprotect them. This makes it harder for children to learn the consequences of their actions and makes learning less engaging.

Furthermore, educators, public health professionals, and child development experts are concerned that children today spend less time playing and learning outdoors, with damaging results for them and society. For this reason, unstructured outdoor play and learning are central to this experience.

We take reasonable steps to manage and balance risks, while at the same time allow children to play freely. Participants acknowledge its inherent risks of harm and personal injury. While minor injuries like bruises, bumps and scrapes are not uncommon, serious injuries are rare, and life-changing injuries and fatalities are unlikely in the extreme. Still, as with almost any activity, indoors or outdoors, it is impossible to guarantee that they will not happen. You are required to accept this as a condition of your child's participation.

## Risks

The variety of risks is more than can be listed here and will vary depending on the activities. However, our role is to support children in learning and playing, while keeping the risks to an acceptable level.

Below is a list of some of the more significant risks:

- Injuries from executing strenuous physical activities
- Injuries resulting from matches or fire
- Injuries resulting from the presence of harmful plants, natural loose parts, wild animals, and/or ticks
- Changing and inclement weather, including storms, high winds, and lightning
- The possibility that your child may not heed safety instructions or directions given to the group or delivered individually
- Injuries arising from the actions of other children
- Negligence on the part of other participants

In unstructured, outdoor play, children freely choose which experiences and forms of play they are comfortable engaging in. Your child is under no obligation to participate in all experiences and may choose not to participate at any time. We always give the child the option to opt out.