

Inspecting Children's Playgrounds Training Course

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This is a practical course for those who inspect children's playgrounds. It is designed for those who are not necessarily specialists and who may inspect playgrounds along with other duties or as volunteers. A certificate of attendance and participation will be issued.

There will be a practical session on playgrounds. **NB:** *Please do come in appropriate clothing. You will be traversing accessible parts of the equipment. It may also be muddy. Kilts or skirts are obviously not appropriate.*

Programme

Morning

- Welcome and Introductions
- Common problems associated with playgrounds – PowerPoint presentation
- Law and Standards
- Hierarchy of inspections
- Forms and recording systems

Lunch

Afternoon

- Inspection methodology – equipment and ancillary items
- Practical exercises at nearby play areas (to include visual and operational inspections)
NB: *You will only be asked to traverse those parts of equipment which are accessible for child users. Please do not exceed your own abilities or put yourself and others at risk by over exuberance. Please refer to the tutor if you are unsure.*
- Review practical inspections
- Question and answer session

Course Tutor:

Rob Wheway has over 45 years experience in children's play. Since 1990 his work has primarily concerned assessments and safety inspections of children's playgrounds throughout the British Isles. In addition to CPAS he has worked on behalf of Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), ILAM, NPFA, RoSPA etc.

He also specialises in operational and strategic management for Local Authorities and commercial organisations. He is an acknowledged expert, through observational and consultation research, in children's play in the outdoor environment.

He was assessed as competent in 2003 and 2007 by the Register of Play Inspectors International. He serves on the British Standards SW/065 committee, which deals with playground equipment.

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Checklist

The following checklist is to help you ensure that everything is in order for the day. The timing is usually 9.00/9.30am to 3.30/4.00pm. Because of the importance of the practicals, the maximum number per course is around 12 persons.

(please tick as appropriate)

- A room that can be reasonably darkened is desirable for purposes of clarity of Powerpoint presentation
- Screen or light coloured, flat, wall
- Electric socket for projector – An extension lead will probably be needed if it is not in a convenient position
- Flipchart/pens *(or white board with markers)*
- Refreshments (liquid mid-morning/afternoon and probably arrival). It is also best if lunch is at the venue (buffet/sandwiches) - wandering off tends to be disruptive
- At least 2 playgrounds to inspect (these should be chosen on the basis of a reasonable variety of equipment, showing signs of wear/deterioration/ damage)
- Transport to the playgrounds (or agreement that people will take their own cars)
- The playgrounds will not have fairground/community event on the training day. If it is a holiday period the playgrounds are NOT ones that are likely to be packed with children on that day
- Any permissions or courtesy notifications with managers/owners of specific playgrounds have been obtained/sent
- Attendees have been informed that there is a practical inspection; they may have to go up a climbing frame/multi-play, or it may be muddy/raining, so they should wear appropriate clothing and footwear

The budget quotation for an in-house, one-day course is £850.00 plus VAT inclusive of all expenses and delegate packs. This assumes that the customer provides the venue, refreshments etc. Delegate based training will cost £130.00 plus VAT per delegate. (Jan.2018)