



CHILD ACCIDENT PREVENTION FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

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## Playground Safety Week 2008; 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April

### Media Release

For Immediate Release

### Naturally Kids play!

Playground injury is a serious and common childhood event. On average ten children are injured at a playground in WA each week.

Each year there are more than 750 playground fall injury presentations at Princess Margaret Hospital Emergency Department alone. More than half of these are due to a fall from playground equipment less than 1m in height.

Playground Safety Week, 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April, aims to promote the prevention of fall related injuries to children while encouraging children to stay active but safe during play.

Play is a vital part of a child's life – it should be fun but hazard free. Combining fun and safety is possible. A great way to achieve creative playspaces is by using elements of the natural environment in conjunction with manufactured equipment.

The natural environment provides great opportunities for creative play. Creative play is essential for the development of children's imagination, social and cognitive abilities as well as their co-ordination and physical skills.

"Whether it is a natural or manufactured playground, it should set some physical challenges for children so that they can learn the balance between safety and risk taking." said Ms Sue Wicks, CEO of Kidsafe WA. "However, design of playspaces should minimise potential hazards for the prevention of injuries."

Kidsafe WA and EarthCare are holding a "Natural Playspace" seminar on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April to launch the start of Playground Safety Week. The seminar aims to showcase the benefits of natural playspaces and how manufactured playground equipment can be combined with the natural environment to develop creative, stimulating and safe play areas.

Playground safety is a joint responsibility of play space providers, community members and playground users. Above all, a key playground safety consideration is that supervision and safe play rules are essential at all times during play.

Together, we can create safe challenging and memorable playspaces for children of WA.

For further information about Kidsafe WA or Playground Safety Week please phone 08 9340 8509 or visit [www.kidsafewa.com.au](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au)

### Ends

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Kidsafe WA

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