

EduTrend Contents

G4C · ADVENTURE AND OUTDOOR GAMES · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Risk and Benefit Detectives

Survey an outdoor play area and weigh the benefits of each feature against its risks

Ages 12–14	Level: Intermediate	50 minutes	Groups of 3–4 · up to 30	Activity 04

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 04 · AT A GLANCE

Risk and Benefit Detectives

Groups walk a chosen outdoor area with a survey sheet. For each feature, such as a slope, tree, log or uneven ground, they list the benefit for children's play and learning, the possible risk, and a sensible control that keeps the benefit. They then decide whether each feature is suitable for ages 4 to 10 and present one recommendation for an outdoor game.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- identify benefits of outdoor features;
- identify risks realistically;
- suggest proportionate controls;
- make a balanced recommendation.

KEY WORDS

risk · benefit · control · hazard · proportionate · recommend

CURRICULUM LINKS

PE: outdoor activity. PSHE: managing risk. Geography: local area.

1	2	3	4	5	6
WARM UP	**EXPLAIN**	**PLAY**	**ADAPT**	**TALK**	**COOL DOWN**
Get moving safely	One rule at a time	Short rounds	Easier or harder	What helped?	Calm and review

Materials (per group)

- Risk-benefit survey sheets
- Clipboards and pencils
- Map of the area
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Walk the area first.
- Agree boundaries.
- Prepare survey sheets.
- Brief supervisors.

SAFETY

Survey only; do not climb or test features. Stay with the group and within boundaries.

ACTIVITY 04 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Emphasise that the aim is balance: some risk brings real benefits for children.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min **Brief**	Risk versus benefit.	*"Is all risk bad?"*
8–30 min **Survey**	Groups complete sheets.	*"What does this feature give children?"*
30–42 min **Decide**	Rate features and controls.	*"Is the control proportionate?"*
42–50 min **Present**	Share recommendations.	*"Which game would you run here?"*

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Recommend the best outdoor spot for a children's game by weighing benefits against risks honestly.

ACTIVITY 04 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The game know-how in brief

A risk-benefit approach looks at what an activity gives children, such as balance, confidence and curiosity, alongside what could go wrong.

Proportionate controls reduce serious risks while keeping the challenge that helps children learn to manage themselves.

Common ideas to listen for

- “The safest area has no challenge.” Children need some challenge.
- “Any risk means ban it.” Control it instead.
- “Adults remove all hazards.” Children learn to judge too.

Adapting the activity

Support

Provide a list of common features to look for.

Stretch

Write a short risk-benefit statement for a school.

WORKSHEET 1

Survey sheet

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

For each feature.

Survey sheet

Feature	Benefit	Risk	Control

WORKSHEET 2

Suitability

Rate for ages 4–10.

Suitability

Feature	Suitable?	Why

WORKSHEET 3

Our recommendation

Justify.

We recommend... because the benefits... and the controls...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Identifies benefits	Identifies risks	Balances decisions

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Risk and Benefit Detectives is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents G4C Adventure and Outdoor Games programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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