

TOUCHWOOD

REPORT OF A POST INSTALLATION INSPECTION

**Cairndow Early Learning and Family Centre
(The Fyne Den, Cairndow, Argyll, Scotland, PA26 8BL)**

The area was inspected on 31 October 2019
by Rob Wheway of Children's Play Advisory Service





Introduction

This is an imaginative play area situated inside an early learning and family centre. Although it is indoors it is the type of equipment that is commonly installed in outdoor unsupervised playgrounds. The guidance found in BS EN 1176 is therefore appropriate for this facility. That guidance is generally for unsupervised use by children whilst recognising that “young children and of less able or less competent children” will need to be supervised.

It is a “pay to play” facility run by a “not for profit” organisation which is also a charity. The fact that it is “pay to play” and its geographical location a long distance from most housing means that children will be accompanied by adults. The risks are therefore less than a similar playground outdoors in a park or housing estate.

The equipment is suitable for children of all ages and can be traversed by adults supervising toddlers.

The managers are suggesting that when it is first opened they have a trial with a small number of children before opening it to the general public. This is good practice and if there are any unpredicted problems these could then be rectified.

The equipment was in the final stages of completion at the time of the inspection. The sand impact absorbing surface was being installed at the time of the inspection. The wet-pour IAS is to be installed within a few days.

Together with the surfacing there are a few mainly minor matters which have still to be addressed.

Once the surfacing has been fully installed and the other minor matters have been rectified if the client and contractor are jointly satisfied that the work has been carried out then there should be no need for further inspection. Their agreement should be logged and attached to this report. The equipment will then be fit for use by children. It will be of benefit to children of the local community.

Ancillary Items

Work is required on the following:

Sockets The sockets at and near the play area should be fitted with child-safe plug socket covers



Item 1	Large Wooden Multi-play
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STANDARD: Minor failures to meet EN 1176 but suitable for continued use

- Fails “grip/grasp” requirements. This is an inevitable consequence of large log constructions and the consultant believes the risk is acceptable.
- The bucket on chain with pulley for sand play gives some potential for pinches etc. This type of design is quite commonly used in outdoor playgrounds and is not known to be associated with accidents. Sand play has high play value and the chain/pulley adds to this. On a risk benefit analysis the design is of acceptable risk.
- The access at both sides of the ladder is wider than the ladder. The contractor is aware of this and is to fit handholds or planks to rectify this. Once this has been done it will be of acceptable risk.



CONDITION: The gap at the middle deck is at 0.78m which would be too high for younger children (the one below is 0.52m). *The contractors are aware and are to install a short length of wood to give children a step up.*



SURFACING: Wet-Pour Mulch/Sand
Depth: The sand is to be installed at 200mm depth. The wet-pour is to be installed at 50mm depth.

STANDARD: Minor failure to meet dimensions required of EN 1176

- Log edging in falling space from bridge. As bridge sides are high (approx. 1.3m) they can be deemed “non-climbable” and the risk is therefore acceptable.



CONDITION: The sand was being installed at the time of the inspection. It was rather damp giving it a dark appearance and when pressed was slightly solid. The consultant tested it and was confident that, once dry, it would give suitable impact absorption. A small sample left in the sun and wind quickly dried out and had a sandy appearance. The supplier of the sand should have submitted independent certification of its impact absorption.



Design Risk: Acceptable – *once the IAS has been fully installed and the access at the ladder has been narrowed*

Maintenance Risk: Acceptable – *once the IAS has been fully installed and the step up has been installed at the middle deck*

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