



**SKILLS
TRAINING
CENTRE**



Playground Inspection



TRAINING & ASSESSMENT

The aim of these programmes is to enable delegates to carry out either routine visual or operational playground inspections safely, in accordance with EN1176 & EN1177 and to take appropriate follow up actions. If required, we can assess individual playground inspectors to the national RPII standards and register their competence with RPII for 3 years.

ROUTINE VISUAL INSPECTIONS

OPTION 1: 1 Day training only

OPTION 2: 1 Day training & RPII assessment

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Anyone responsible for carrying out routine visual (daily/weekly) inspections of children's play equipment or play areas.

Those completing the course will be eligible to take the **Register of Play Inspectors International** assessment for routine visual inspections on the same day (option 2: extra charges apply).

CERTIFICATION

- ▶ **Option 1:** a STC certificate of training
- ▶ **Option 2:** a STC certificate of training and registration with **RPII** for routine visual inspections on successful completion of the assessment.

CONTENTS

- ▶ Introduction to safety
- ▶ Playground accidents, types, severity and reasons
- ▶ The legal framework for playgrounds and inspections; negligence, case law, Acts of Parliament
- ▶ Health and safety at work
- ▶ A working knowledge of the European playground standards EN1176 & EN1177
- ▶ Types and hierarchy of playground inspections
- ▶ Risk assessment
 - ▶ Principles of risk assessment
 - ▶ Using risk assessments to make decisions & appropriate follow up actions
- ▶ Reporting and paperwork
- ▶ How to inspect adequately and safely (including approaches to playgrounds; playground surroundings; and the active playground area, including non-play items)
- ▶ Common faults with popular equipment
- ▶ Practical on-site inspection
- ▶ Optional RPII assessment

OPERATIONAL INSPECTIONS

OPTION 1: 2 Days training only

OPTION 2: 3 Days training & RPII assessment

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Anyone responsible for carrying out operational (one to three monthly) inspections of play equipment or play areas and those in a supervisory or maintenance role.

Those completing the 2 day course will be eligible to take the **Register of Play Inspectors International** assessment for operational inspections on an additional day (option 2: extra charges apply).

CERTIFICATION

- ▶ **Option 1:** a STC certificate of training
- ▶ **Option 2:** a STC certificate of training and registration with **RPII** for operational inspections on successful completion of the assessment.

CONTENTS

- ▶ Introduction to safety
- ▶ The importance of play to children and child development
- ▶ Playground accidents, types, severity and reasons
- ▶ The legal framework for playgrounds and inspections; negligence, case law, Acts
- ▶ Health and safety at work
- ▶ A general knowledge of the European playground standards EN1176 & EN1177
- ▶ Types and hierarchy of inspections
- ▶ Risk assessment
 - ▶ Principles of risk assessment
 - ▶ Using risk assessments to make decisions & appropriate follow up actions
- ▶ Reporting and paperwork
- ▶ Inspection of specific play equipment or play features including surfacing
- ▶ Checking of maintenance and other playground actions taken
- ▶ Common faults with popular items
- ▶ How to inspect appropriately and safely (including approaches to playgrounds; playground surroundings; and the active playground area including non-play items)
- ▶ Practical on-site inspection
- ▶ Optional RPII assessment

OPERATIONAL INSPECTIONS (REFRESHER ONLY)

OPTION 1: 1 Day training only

OPTION 2: 2 Days training & RPII assessment

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This is a refresher course, so is only suitable for those who have attended a two day training course on Operational Inspections of Children's Playgrounds within the past three years. A Skills Training Centre certificate will be issued to those who complete the course. (NB. Any candidates who attended the two day course more than three

years ago will have to re-attend the two day course outlined above.)

Those completing the 1 day refresher course will be eligible to take the **Register of Play Inspectors International** assessment for operational inspections on an additional day (option 2: extra charges apply).

CERTIFICATION

- ▶ **Option 1:** a STC certificate of training
- ▶ **Option 2:** a STC certificate of training and registration with **RPII** for operational inspections on successful completion of the assessment.

CONTENTS

- ▶ See two day course above

HEALTH & SAFETY IN PLAY AREAS

40,000 injuries to children occur on playgrounds each year.

The Government Code of Good Practice for Play Safety states that play areas shall be inspected weekly by a competent person, preferably by someone with some basic training. The Health & Safety at Work Act also requires those responsible for safety to be competent to carry out their role. Insurance companies are increasingly requiring that playground inspections are carried out by a competent person as this may influence the liability and/or value of any potential claims.

The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 also states that health and safety training should be repeated periodically where appropriate and be adapted to take account of any new or changed risks to the health and safety of those concerned.

RoSPA recommend conducting a regime of weekly recorded routine visual inspections of the play area, looking for very obvious faults, and a monthly, more detailed operational inspection. It is important that the fact that these inspections have taken place is recorded and the records kept.

Provision of play areas to the European Standards EN1176 and EN1177

is a requirement under the Health & Safety at Work Act, and represents good practice in the event of an accident claim. Although compliance with these standards will not automatically create a safe playground, compliance is considered good practice and shows that providers are exercising their legal 'duty of care'.

The Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII)

is the nationally recognised body for the examination of and registration of playground inspectors who are competent to carry out inspections to the EN standards. Our courses are provided to RPII standards, and our candidates are examined by RPII examiners, and when successful are registered with the RPII as competent inspectors.

INSTRUCTOR

The Skills Training Centre has worked closely with Dave Potter for many years, delivering effective playground inspection training to a wide range of local authorities and commercial organisations.

Dave is an experienced inspector and one of the few people qualified to carry out annual inspections to RPII standards. He is also an RPII examiner; is an honorary advisor to the National Playing Fields Association and is on the Law Society's Register of Expert Witnesses.

Dave has also written several books about playground safety including the National Playing Fields Association's publication *Playground Management and Safety* and Playlink's *Risk and Safety in Play; The Law and Practice for Adventure Playgrounds*.

