



A FRAMES IN SUPERVISED EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTINGS

Children love A Frames and they play an important role in all outdoor playspaces in the Supervised Early Childhood settings. The ability to change the play experience regularly by using planks, and other add-ons is highly recommended.

There are some safety issues which need to be considered, especially since the introduction of AS4685. They relate to the free height of fall, and the possibility of entrapments.

The maximum height of A Frames in Supervised Early Childhood settings according to the Australian Standard AS4685 is 1.5m (1500 mm) maximum however Play Australia does not recommend this height in all settings and recommends that due consideration be given to the age of the children, the children involved and other pertinent local issues.

Play Australia recommends between 1200mm and 1500mm generally and advises that most settings would use 1200mm. For children aged 0-3 the height should be less.

Caution re the size of gaps is recommended to ensure that there is no possibility of head/neck entrapment.

Entrapment is a key issue to be aware of.

Distance between rungs on an A Frame in an Early Childhood setting

Spaces between 230 mm and 88mm are considered dangerous for head entrapment as per Australian Standards and should be avoided.

All gaps with a bottom edge >600mm above the ground should be <89mm or >230mm wide.

If you have a problem with the size of the gaps, it is suggested that you get a welder to remove the bars, and then replace them at appropriate measurements.

Remember a gap is only an entrapment if there is forced movement, and children do not have their feet and thus their body weight firmly placed.

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